

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1846.

[SIXPENCE.]

CHRISTMAS IN TWO CENTURIES.



AVING to write on the Eve of Christmas, we do so hoping, as usual, to be read, but confessing to certain doubts on the point; for we appear in the midst of a festival period, when politics are eschewed, and business for a space suspended—a thing not quite forgotten, but still not all absorbingly remembered. With men's own affairs thus postponed, shall they give more regard to those of the nation? Certainly not. There are gentlemen paid to be dignified and dismal in Downing-street, to deal with famines and foreign marriages as they can: to receive deputations of tax-deprecating citizens with a smile, and bow them out as they came—dissatisfied. All this is their vocation;

the function is of their own seeking; and if it spoils their Christmas, it is no reason, reader, why it should do the same with ours; wherefore, in our communing this week, we mean to be as unpolitical and unbusiness-like as possible.

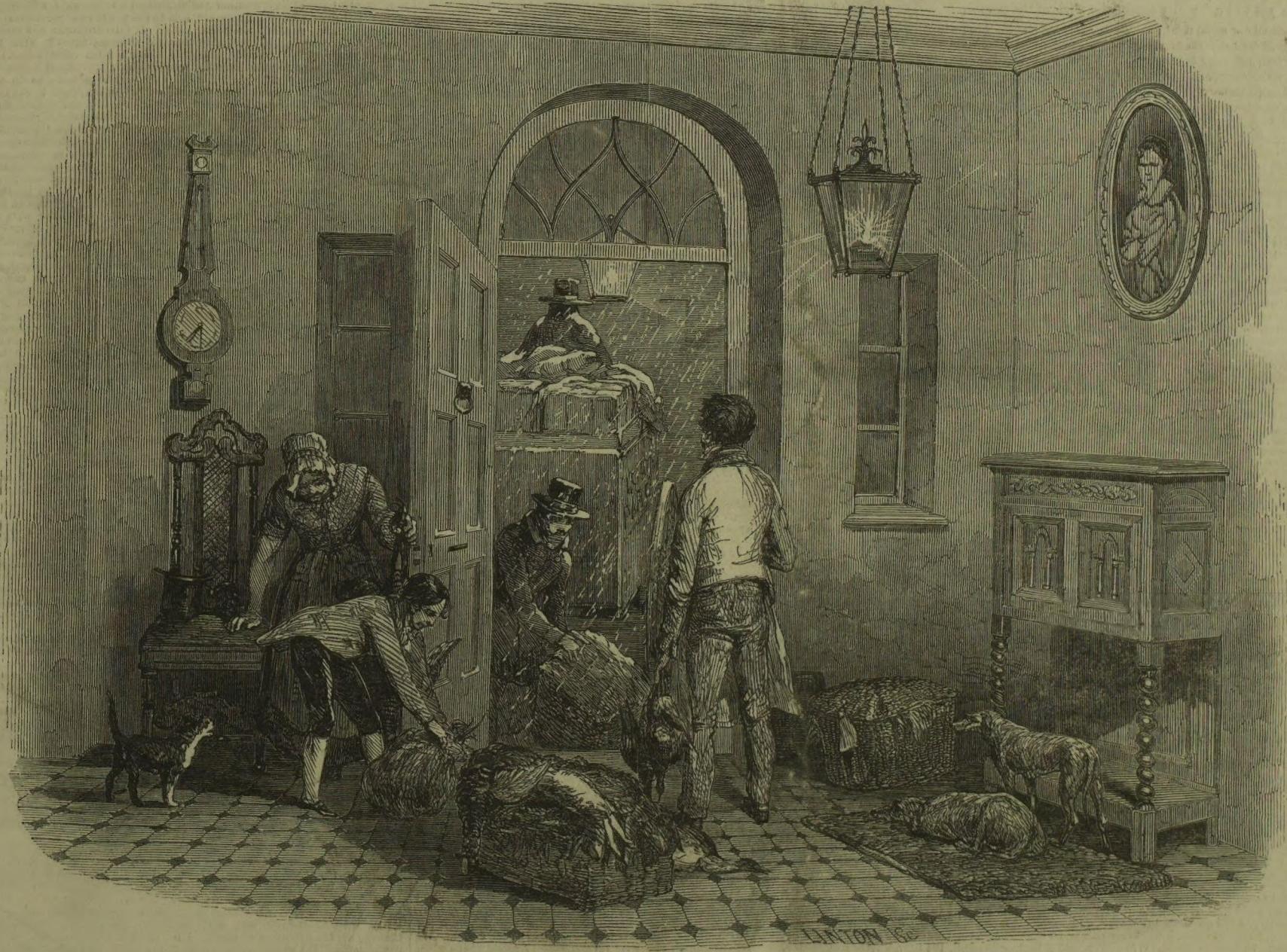
We thought of invoking the spirit of Fun, but there are masters whom he more readily obeys; and besides he is fully engaged rehearsing the pantomimes—in which, by the way, his appearance will be a refreshing novelty. In his absence we must try what the kindred spirit Cheerfulness can do towards reconciling us to CHRISTMAS AS IT IS, since many persons persist in underrating and holding it very cheap compared with CHRISTMAS AS IT WAS,—we forget how long ago. The "good old times" are a most extraordinary epoch, for they are never to be found; we may go back as far as we will, and they are always more remote; in the days of Elizabeth, they were probably somewhere in the reign of King John—a very happy period, according to the chronicles; it was a very merry Christmas in the year the Barons were obliged to bring the King to book, or rather to parchment, at Runnymead; yet the old Lords, we dare say, lamenting the degeneracy of the times, sighed for the age of Alfred, when the Christmas must have been exceedingly "merry" also, amid continual wars, massacres, invasions, and a deluge of ignorance, that left scarce ten men in the realm who could read! And his old Saxon nobles, over their beer and metheglim, likewise lamented the evil days their Christmas was cast among; how far they went back for the better time of all men's hope, and no man's possession, Heaven only knows; certain it is we shall not follow them. We positively decline Stonehenge and the Druids!

We are content with an antiquity less sublime; we reckon only

from the Georgian Era, and date our remote ages from the Hanoverian Succession. In a century, or thereabouts, the human race has decayed sufficiently for our purpose (the proving our own degeneracy), and Christmas along with it. We will, therefore, go back to the "golden prime" of a hundred years since, and try to conjecture what was doing at Christmas, 1746, imagine what we have lost in the interval, and for what the men of 1846 have to blush in the comparison!

No abuse is too heavy for the present generation. Novelists fill their pockets by painting it as intoxicated with the love of gold, and eager to make wealth by short cuts and visionary methods. Were our sires free from the same reproach? In 1746 the nation had scarcely recovered the shock of the South Sea Bubble, which, in its bursting, strewed the land with social and moral wrecks; and many was the cold hearth at the Christmas of that year, which should have been brightened by the wealth and happiness swept away in that gigantic delusion. Till similar ruin overtakes us, we may lay claim to more prudence than our sires; if not exempt from the madness of speculation, we at least show more method in it; and, at the worst, if greater wisdom is denied us, we have had at least better luck. By so much then, at least, is our Christmas of 1846 a merrier one than its predecessor of a century ago.

And in 1746 there were other abatements of the mirth of the present season, or what we should now find complete extinguishers of it. A rebellion had just been crushed, not without peril to the throne; there were bloody thoughts in the hearts of the vanquished, and revenge in the hands of the victors; there were heads being cut off for treason, and stuck on Temple-bar—a cannibal spectacle; and outlaws and desperate men turned robbers and



CHRISTMAS.—"THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON." DRAWN BY DUNCAN.—(SEE PAGE 406.)

made Bagshot Heath a terror to men's souls, and there were neither gas-light, nor newspapers, nor police; and carriages could be stopped in Piccadilly by highwaymen, and there were murders in the streets, and violence everywhere, and the prisons were filled with fever as well as crime; and the laws were savage, and a dozen or fifteen men hung at Tyburn in a batch was a common morning's exhibition; and journeys were so long and dangerous, people made their wills before they set out on one; and society altogether was in a reckless state, since where examples were looked for, good examples were not to be found; the Court was profligate, the Parliament corrupt. All this, and more than this, may be learned from the chronicles of the time; and, had there not been strength, energy, and a healthy nature in the mass of the people, England would never have recovered from the countless evils of that eighteenth century, through which we rose, not so much by virtue of good government as in spite of bad. Yet many was the merry Christmas spent in the midst of all, for social customs wear the longest, and are pretty much the same in all times, and under every system; moreover, by a happy provision of nature, the sense of evils, like that of death, is "most in apprehension," and many things that seem insupportable to us, were treated by our fathers quite as matters of course. Thus were we handed down to this present Christmas of 1846.

And what have we gained through the good and ill of a century? Much for which it behoves us to be thankful. Through time and struggle we have emerged to clearer views and better practice in many things: the Laws are milder, and yet life and property are more safe; authority is settled and secure, and our only domestic wars are those of words. And as for material and physical improvements, in all that ministers to the comforts and luxuries of life, a bare catalogue of them, in the reign of George the Second, would have read like a chapter from the "Arabian Nights." We have not degenerated in any one point, and we have progressed in a thousand. Our beef is fatter, our beer is better, and we consume more of both; and to them we add accompaniments Sir Roger de Coverley never heard of—things unknown to the age that had not a Fortnum and Mason. We have even plebeianised pine-apples, till they are but one remove from potatoes. Can we estimate the perils of a dinner-out at Christmas, 1746? Scarcely; for we have lost the traditions of sedan chairs and swords. But safely and swift runs the Patent Hansom, under gas-lights that make the sun a superfluity; there is not a highwayman in all the suburbs, and there is (or ought to be) the Police. And how coolly do we take journeys that would have cost our ancestors an awful preparation! We merely pull on our gloves, take a seat—and get out at Liverpool, or elsewhere. Railroads alone have pushed us a thousand years in advance of the last century; there is no such thing as space now; we converse across continents and kingdoms, and feasting Mayors take wine with each other from York to Newcastle, as easily as if they were at the same table. We live among improvements of all kinds: Church, Bench, Bar, and Parliament are all changed for the better; the public departments are too well watched to be anything but honest; public men are above taking bribes; and as to the motives of our Statesmen, we have seen a Prime Minister give away his salary to build Churches with, contented with power and fame. In the face of all this, have we reason to despond of the future, or sigh for the past? All is not for the best, certainly; but the tendency is towards the better, and our progress is not yet done. Perhaps, England of 1946 will look back as we do now on the past century, and wonder how men lived in our benighted age; we heartily hope they may, for it will speak of progress still; and the speculations of "all the greatness yet to be," will warrant the wish of the poet—

To pass with all our social ties
To silence, from the paths of men,
And every hundred years to rise,
And learn the world, and sleep again:
To sleep through terms of mighty wars,
To wake on science grown to more,
On secrets of the brain, the stars,
As wild as ought of fairy lore;

And all that else the years will show—
The poet forms of stronger hours,
The vast Republics that may grow,
The Federations, and the Powers;
Titanic forces taking birth
In divers seasons, diverse climates;
For we are ancients of the earth,
And in the morning of the times!

THE WEATHER.

A GREAT change has taken place in the weather during the past week, a rapid thaw having occurred, and the frost having entirely disappeared. The following are the particulars since our former notice:—Thursday, December 17, was a very cold day, the reading of the thermometer being 33° nearly all day, at night it declined to 21½°; and such was the reading on the morning of Friday, which was a bitter cold day, the temperature not rising above 24½°, till after noon. Towards the evening the thermometer readings increased, and continued doing so all the following night. On the morning of Saturday the reading was as high as 40°, being nearly 19° higher than it was at the same time on the previous day. Rain was falling on Saturday morning. The temperature continued between 40° and 50° during Sunday and Monday, and of course the thaw was rapid. On the latter day the thermometer reading rose to 48°, and afterwards fell rapidly; so that on Tuesday morning it had sunk to 30°, a point 17° lower than it was at the same time on the previous day. During Tuesday it rose to 41°, and sank at night to 34°. Rain on the morning of Wednesday fell to the depth of a quarter of an inch, and at night some sleet fell. The barometer reading has been unusually low this week, it having been down to 28.6 inches: it has since risen, though still low, being at present about 29.4 inches. The following are the extreme thermometrical readings each day:—

Thursday, Dec. 17,	the highest reading was 34 deg.	the lowest was 29 deg.
Friday, Dec. 18,	.....	30
Saturday, Dec. 19	.....	46
Sunday, Dec. 20	.....	47
Monday, Dec. 21	.....	48
Tuesday, Dec. 22	.....	41
Wednesday, Dec. 23	.....	42
Blackheath, Dec. 24, 1846.	J. G.	30

INFANT SCHOOL.—EDUCATION FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.—The first examination of an infant school for the middle classes established in Upper Barnsbury-street, Islington, and conducted on the improved system of the Home and Colonial Infant and Juvenile Schools Society, Gray's Inn-road, was held on Friday week, at the British School-rooms in Denmark-street. The interest which has been awakened, notwithstanding the recent formation of the establishment, was strongly indicated by the large and highly respectable audience with which the spacious room was filled. The school, which, although it has not been in existence nine months, contains already upwards of fifty children, is, we understand, one of the first which has been opened for this purpose. The examination was conducted under the superintendence of Mr. Dunning, of the Home and Colonial Society, and Mr. Curwen, of Pista. These gentlemen expressed themselves much delighted with the joyous freedom of the little ones and their prompt and intelligent replies. A revolution, expressive of the confidence of the meeting in the teachers, and in the mode of teaching adopted, was moved by some of the parents, and most cordially responded to by all present. Altogether it was a most gratifying and influential meeting.

TUNNELLING THE ALPS.—The *Moniteur Belge* announces that experiments have been made in order to test the efficacy of a machine just invented for the purpose of effecting a new and speedy method of boring tunnels. It is proposed to apply this machine to the construction of the great tunnel about to be commenced in connection with one of the Italian lines. The machine was placed in front of the web, and effected a bore to the depth of 18½ centimetres in thirty-five minutes. At this rate the new invention will complete upwards of five metres of bore per day, and the proposed tunnel through Mount Cenis will be finished in the space of three years. The experiments have been repeated twice before several of the first engineers of France, and with the most complete success.

ONE DAY'S IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN PROVISIONS.—The following is a statement of the importations of foreign provisions into Liverpool, as reported in the Customs bill of entry of Tuesday:—35,507 barrels of flour, 82,218 bushels Indian corn, 30,964 bushels wheat, 3,510 barrels meal, 10,618 sacks Indian corn, 2,001 sacks wheat, 1,660 tierces rice, 1,460 quarters buck wheat, 585 quarters beans, 900 quarters barley, 1,160 quarters, 197 barrels, 22 tierces, and 3 hogheads peas, 520 barrels pork, 50 barrels beef, 1,966 boxes cheese, 50 hogheads, 24 tierces, and 99 casks bacon, 70 barrels bread, 177 barrels and 6 packages onions, 104 firkins butter, 762 barrels, 2 tierces, and 8,196 kegs lard, 50 bags oats.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris has been considerably excited this week by a rumour that Russia intends to complete the spoliation of Poland, and that Poland is about to be called New Russia, and incorporated with the empire of Russia. This report emanated from the German papers; and, whether well or ill founded, seems to divide public attention with the recent violation of the independence of Cracow.

Louis Philippe has been slightly indisposed; but was better when the last account left Paris.

Mr. Cobden has returned to France from Spain. He reached Perpignan on the 14th inst., on his way to England.

Considerable sensation has been created in Paris by the seizure of the *National*, particularly as the precise cause of the seizure does not seem to be known. The power of seizure, so unprovokedly exercised, says a Paris letter, "must suggest strange reflections to all who read the daily claims of the existing Government to the title of constitutional. The cause for this stretch of the *arbitraire* may appear hereafter."

Deshayes, the celebrated dancer, died a few days ago in Paris. Last season he came to visit the beloved precincts of the Opera again, and being invited to a dinner with Taglioni, Cerito, and many of the first of the light-heeled fraternity, all the memories of his glories were revived, and he had so many toasts on the subject to drink in champagne, that he grew glorious himself afterwards; and, instead of going to bed, strolled into the fields, and nearly broke his neck in a pit. However, he recovered with broken shins, and died loved and esteemed by all who knew him.

Before the Bey of Tunis left Paris, he presented a sum of money to the poor. He also handed 20,000 francs to Colonel Thierry, to be divided amongst the persons belonging to the King's household, who were attached to his service during his visit to Paris. He distributed several rich presents, and Captain Cheret, who was charged with the service of the palace, received the decoration of the Nichan. His Highness gave the decoration of this order, the statutes of which he has lately assimilated to those of the Legion of Honour, to about thirty persons during his stay.

The *Portefeuille* states that King Leopold, when his visit to Paris is concluded, will set out for London, where he will arrive about the middle of January.

The public distress in various parts of France continues to excite the attention and activity of the Government. A report of the Minister of the Interior on this subject appeared in the official journals on Sunday, accompanied by an ordinance for extraordinary credits to the amount of 5,200,000 francs, to carry on commercial works, by means of which it was expected the population would be relieved in quarters which cannot be reached by the influence of the other and larger public works which are in progress.

The *Courrier Français* contains an article upon the subject of the relations between the Bank of England and the Bank of France, in the course of which it has the following absurd commentary upon the Battle of Waterloo. The *Courrier* says:—"As soon as the Bank of France is suspected of having need of the Bank of England John Bull is unwilling that this service should be claimed on the score of reciprocity. He pretends to have all the merit of aiding us, and will not hear of having ever been obliged by us. Never since Waterloo has more insolence (*outrage*) been seen in attributing to one's self a usurped glory. Every one knows the pretension of the English to claim the victory at the Battle of Waterloo the morning after the battle. The movement of retreat on the Brussels road, the terrible charges of our Cuirassiers breaking into and sabering the English squares, careering for two hours in every direction over the high ground of Waterloo, in the midst of the English army at their wits' end—the tears of despair shed by Wellington at the sight of this frightful carnage, the most terrible that history makes mention of—the miraculous arrival of the Prussians to snatch the victory from our hands, and who alone saved the English army from the most complete destruction—all this, we say, was forgotten the day after the battle. They not only assume the merit of our defeat; and it is as a usurped glory that Waterloo is dear to them. Their monuments, their streets, their quays, are so many commemorations of Waterloo! They have Waterloo Bridge, Waterloo Place, and Waterloo Column! This habit of attributing to themselves a usurped glory is, indeed, one of the distinctive signs of the English character; and why, therefore, should it be astonishing that they refuse to the Bank of France the honour of having rendered a service to the Bank of England?"

The weather in Paris relaxed in severity on Saturday afternoon, when a rapid thaw, accompanied by rain, commenced. The rain continued on Sunday, the snow, which covered the roads, rapidly dissolving.

The Marseilles papers state, that the severest cold ever experienced in that town was felt there on Saturday and Sunday last. The streets were frozen, and the violence of the *mistral* rendered it impossible to pass from one part of the town to another."

SPAIN.

The Madrid papers are almost wholly occupied with the results of the elections. The Progressists have nominated at Seville M. Cortina; and M. Antonio Gonzales, who was President of the Council under Espartero, has also been elected. M. Salamanca has been returned by a college in the province of Alicante. The *Espagnol* states that the election of M. Olozaga, who was President of the Council in 1843, when his conduct towards the Queen was discussed in the Cortes, has been the subject of a Cabinet Council. On the 16th the results of 289 nominations were known at Madrid, viz., according to the Ministerial accounts—for the Moderados, 203; for the Progressistas, 60; and for all the other Oppositionists, 26. Amongst the Opposition members is M. Pascual Madoz, formerly Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. M. Pidal, the Minister of the Interior, had been returned Deputy for Madrid, in opposition to the Marquis del Socorro, the Progressista candidate. There had been a scrutiny, but the result of it was, the triumph of M. Pidal, who had a majority of 91 votes over his rival.

Private letters from Madrid state that the public were dissatisfied and the Palaces alarmed at the courtesy of Lord Palmerston towards the Count de Montemolin.

It appears that the weather has been excessively cold at Vittoria. On the 15th, snow fell in abundance, and the thermometer on the 13th had fallen to nine degrees of Reaumur below the freezing point, which is nearly double the maximum of cold experienced in Paris. The poor of Vittoria are, in consequence of the severe weather, in a dreadful state, and if food were not distributed to them daily they must starve.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Cape of Good Hope papers to the 14th of October have arrived. They do not contain any further accounts of warlike operations against the Kaffirs; but a postscript of the *South African Commercial Advertiser* of the above date gives the following interesting facts from the *Graham's Town Journal* of the 3rd of October. The latter paper says:—

"The records of the past week, though tell of the death of two more of our unfortunate fellow-colonists at the hand of the treacherous Kaffir, are, upon the whole, encouraging. Colonel Somersett has been again doing good service in the field, and with results which may well convince the colony of the zeal, gallantry, and unceasing activity of this officer."

"Overtures of peace have been made by the Gaika chiefs."

The Governor's terms in substance were—

1st. That these tribes should lay down their arms.

2nd. That they should give up all the colonial cattle.

3rd. That the country as far as the Kei should be placed under British control—those Kaffirs who remain on this side submitting to such regulations as may be made for their future government.

"Macomo, it is said, seemed disposed individually to agree to these conditions, but by the others they were entirely rejected. They stated they never heard of a conquered people being required to give up their arms—that most of the cattle were dead, and that they were tired of the war, and they were determined not to fight any more. They were under our feet, and our commandos might go to their kraals without any resistance on their part, but that to give up their guns was out of the question."

Summary of Colonel Somersett's proceedings, extracted from his despatches to his Excellency the Governor:—

"Sept. 22, 1846.

"Shot 4 of the enemy, took 4 prisoners, 15 horses, 112 head of cattle, and 3 guns, belonging to Seyolo's tribe.

"Sept. 24, 1846.

"Captured 1100 head of the Gaika cattle, and 30 horses, and shot 5 of the enemy.

"Sept. 29, 1846.

"Secured by mid-day on the 27th, 3000 head of superior cattle, mostly colonial, and a few horses.

"In these operations 22 of the enemy have fallen, but without casualty on the side of the troops."

Although the Cape papers do not supply any new facts of importance, one of the latest date contains details of results already known of a very interesting character. The conference between Colonel Johnston and the Gaika chiefs had been broken off, the latter having refused to comply with the terms proposed by the Colonel for the termination of the war. The Kaffir chiefs were then informed that a resumption of hostilities would immediately take place; they replied that their tribes were sick and tired of warfare, and that they intended to abandon the gun for the spear—to occupy their time in the cultivation of their gardens—and that the English might come and kill them when they pleased. Singularly enough, several of the individuals who attended the conference rode horses, carried guns, and wore the military uniforms which had belonged to the Cape soldiery. Dysentery prevailed among the Kaffirs, which rendered them weak and almost helpless, among whom was Macomo, one of the principal chiefs. We regret to state that a British settler, named Williams, who had been a resident in the colony for the last twenty-six years, was cruelly butchered by the Kaffirs near the mouth of the Kowie river, while quietly and industriously pursuing his laborious occupations in the field. The Rev. Mr. Calderwood narrowly escaped a similar death; for while he was riding on the road to Fort Beaufort, with dispatches from the Governor (Sir F. Maitland), he unexpectedly came into contact with a small body of Kaffirs, when instantaneously three or four assegais were hurled at him, which happily missed the object intended; and the rev. gentleman succeeded in galloping away from the deadly fury of his enemies. A Phillipston, the Kaffirs had set fire to several houses and larger buildings, which ended in their total destruction; among the number was the chapel frequented by the Hottentots, belonging to the London Missionary Society.

THE UNITED STATES.

The packet *Europe* has arrived from New York, with accounts one day later than those by the *Acadia*, received last week. No intelligence had been received from Mexico. General Scott sailed from New York on the 30th ult., in the ship *Union*, for New Orleans. The *New York Herald* premises that on his arrival at Matamoras and Camargo, he will assume the command of the United

States forces stationed in and around those places, and organise them for a forward movement on San Luis Potosi, where he will form a junction with General Taylor.

A frightful steam-boat disaster took place on the 21st November, on the Mississippi, about seven miles below Natchez, arising out of a collision between the steamers *Sultana* and *Maria*; the former bound down the river, and the latter up. The connection-pipe of the *Maria*, by the force of the concussion, was broken; the chief clerk, the second engineer, and between twenty-five and thirty of the crew and passengers were scalded. The *Maria* sank so suddenly, that about thirty passengers in the lower deck, not having time to escape, went down in her. The cabin passengers were all saved.

THE WEST INDIES.

The *Forth* steamer has brought the West India mails. The dates are, from Trinidad the 17th, Demerara and St. Kitt's the 18th, Barbadoes and Dominica the 21st, Jamaica the 23rd, and Antigua the 26th ult. The papers contain very little matter possessing anything beyond a local interest.

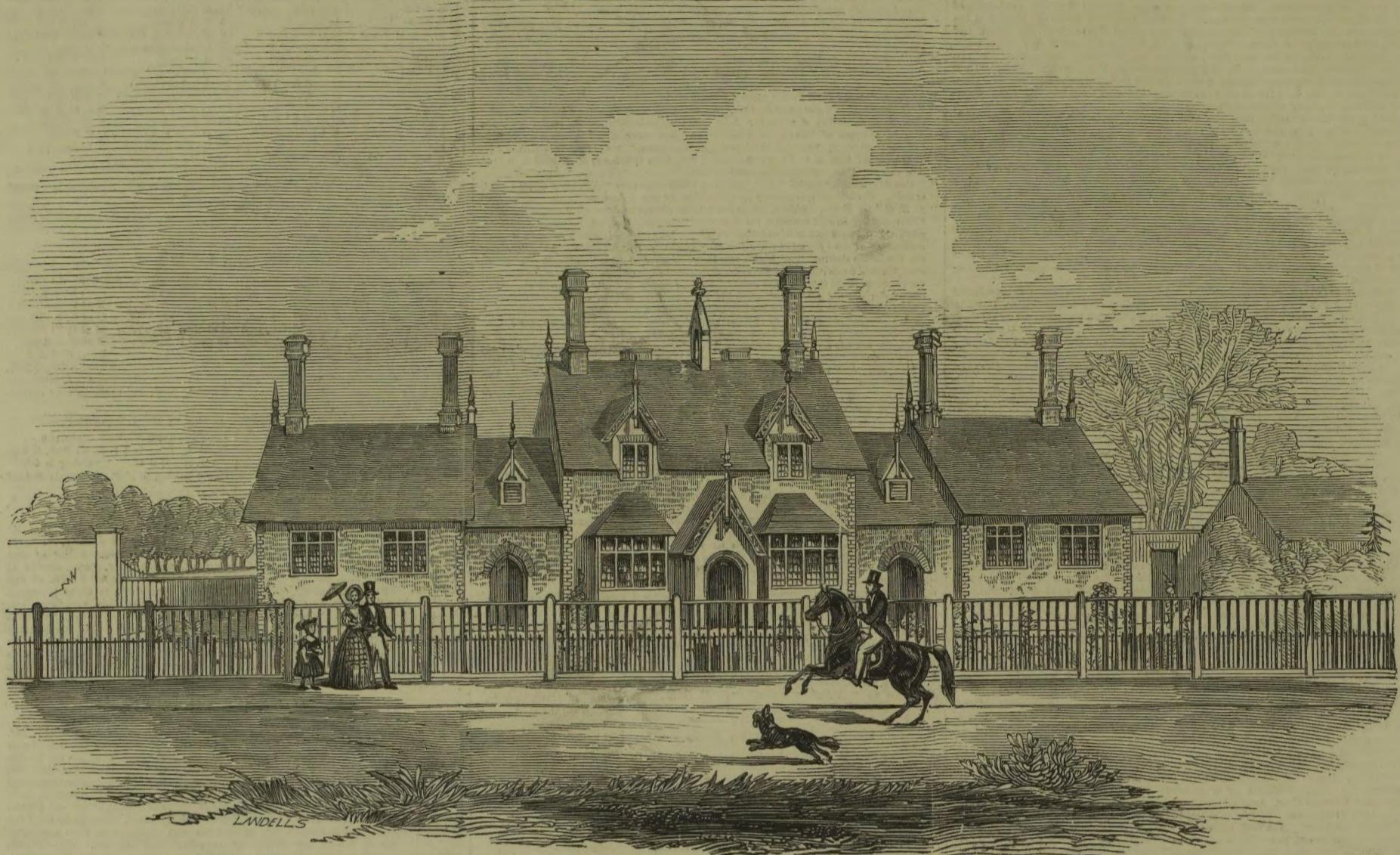
The Jamaica Assembly had met in session, which was opened by a speech from the Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor-General (Sir C. Grey) not having arrived in time. The Assembly had immediately proceeded to the consideration of various measures rendered necessary by the late alteration of the sugar duties.

The news from the other islands is unimportant, excepting the favourable reports generally as to the growing crops.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

THE LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF PROVISIONAL COMMITTEES.

In the Court of QUEEN'S BENCH, on Monday, another case was tried, in which Lord Denman made some important remarks upon the subject of the liability of provisional committee-men. The case was that of *Mitchell v Moore*. It was an action by the plaintiff, an advertising agent, to recover a sum of £1174 from the defendant, in his character of member of the provisional committee of the Great Western Extension Atmospheric Railway Company. The sum in question was composed of £1014 spent in advertisements, and of £160 for commission for procuring their insertion. The company appeared to be got up by a Mr. Brooks, and one or two other persons. Among the gentlemen whose names were stated to be those of supporters of the railway, was that of the Hon. Newton Fellowes, of Devonshire. On the 3rd of September, the defendant, who was described as a Major in the army, residing near Cavendish-square, wrote a letter, in which he said, "I have no objection to my name being put on the committee of the Great Western Extension Atmospheric Railway Company." A prospectus of the company, with the name of the defendant as one of the provisional committee, was published on the following day. How, or by whose directions,



HER MAJESTY'S SCHOOLS, WINDSOR GREAT PARK.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

FLIXTON HALL, SUFFOLK.

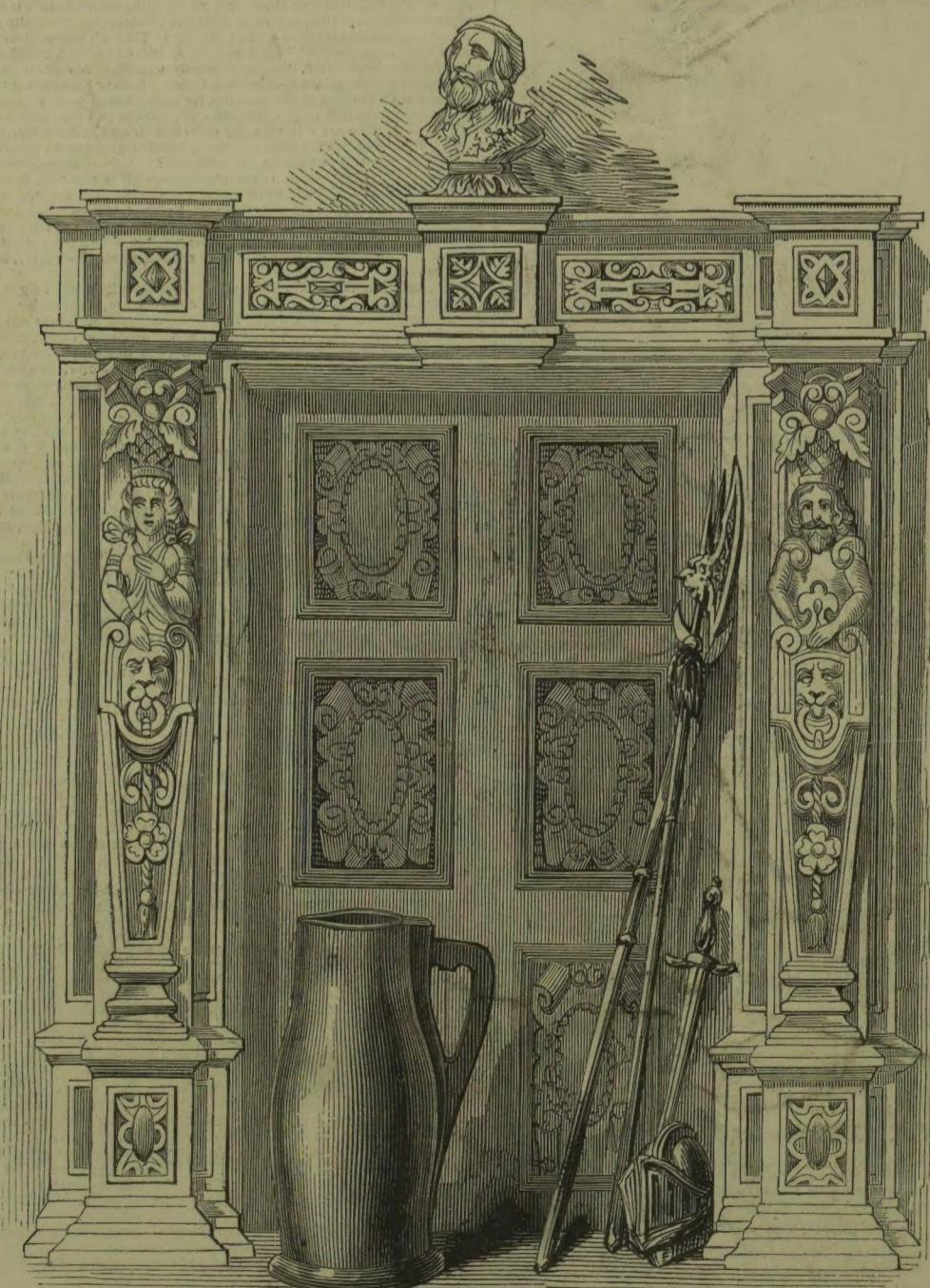
LAST week we gave an exterior view of this fine old mansion, and an account of its recent destruction by fire; we are now enabled to add some few more particulars of its history, together with Engravings of some of the characteristic features of the interior and its furniture, from original sketches, taken about three years since, and which have not hitherto been engraved. The house, although an interesting example of its peculiar style, and an important building in itself,

was little visited by the topographer or antiquary, and is but slightly noticed in county histories. This may be owing to its situation in a part of the country where little traffic occurs. It stood in a fertile and beautiful park, watered by the river Waveney, the grounds in front, and the plantations surrounding it, were of the most luxuriant character.

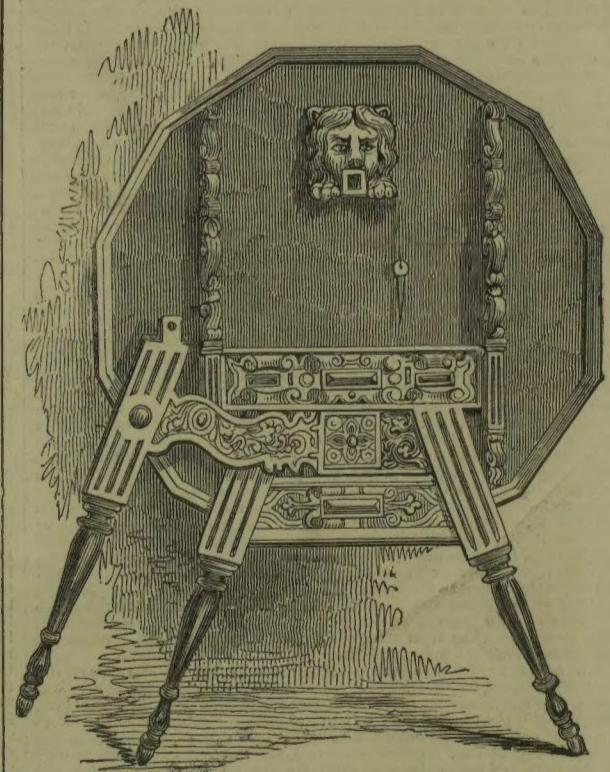
About the time of Henry III. an Augustine Nunnery was established here, by Margery, widow of Bartholomew de Creke, and is another instance of the excellent sites chosen in old times for the building of religious houses, with wood, water, and pasture land, in convenient proximity. The name of Flixton is sup-

posed by some to be derived from St. Felix, the first Bishop of the East Angles. The Nunnery was dissolved in 1528, and intended to be given to Cardinal Wolsey, but, on his declining the offer, it was granted to John Tasburgh, in the failure of whose descendants it passed into the Wyburn family, and was purchased of them by Mr. Adair, about the middle of the last century.

The period at which the late Hall was erected is not satisfactorily settled—it is called Elizabethan by some; and it certainly possesses features of the peculiar style architecture so called; but others confidently say that it was erected in 1615, in the style called "Inigo Jones's Gothic." The truth seems to be, that Jones was employed to re-model the old house; at least, this is the traditional story; and that to his design the front of the building is owing. Originally the house was surrounded by a moat, but this had been filled up long since. The ground plan of the front, with its projecting wings, and slightly projecting doorway, forms the letter E, which was so fashionable a style of construction in the reign of Elizabeth, as a compliment to her, that it may be a reason for imagining the substructure older than Jones's time. The crocketed pinnacles were the characteristic ornament to its roof, which was perfectly flat and battlemented, and from whence an agreeable view of the surrounding fertile country was obtained. The Hall was a spacious room, filled with antique furniture and armour. The large carved fire-place was furnished with logs in the style of the past ages, and



CARVED DOORWAY AND BLACK JACK, AT FLIXTON-HALL.



ELIZABETHAN TABLE AT FLIXTON.

many interesting family pictures hung around the walls. A flight of stairs led from the Hall to the Saloon, the entrance door of which forms the subject of our Cut, and was elaborately carved in oak, with scroll-work foliage and figures in the style of the *Renaissance*, but rather more chaotic in its design than usual. Above it was placed a bust of Inigo Jones, whose connection with the house, as a builder or re-modeller, we have noticed. The suite of rooms leading from the Saloon, as well as that apartment, had been so altered for modern convenience that nothing of a striking character had remained from its original state. The furniture and pictures were valuable, one painting being valued at a thousand guineas; the cabinets were also costly in construction, and of ancient workmanship. But the most remarkable piece of furniture was the folding-table here engraved, which was richly carved, and might be placed flat against a wall, or used by simply adjusting the three legs, when it was wanted. Two of the legs were immovable, on a carved cross-bar, which turned on a pin; the third leg moved on a hinge in the centre of the table, and, being brought into its proper place, the table top was lowered upon it, and the upper part of this leg fitted into the lion's mouth, and secured by the pin which hung beside it. Like too many of our ancient mansions, Flixton did not possess many relics of ancient times, which modern manners dispense with; but one curious thing remained, and was treasured with care; this was the "Black Jack," or leather jug, in which ale was dispensed in the Hall on great festivals, when the servants and tenantry were assembled. That at Flixton was one of the largest known to exist, and was capable of holding eight gallons; it is figured in our Cut of the Entrance to the Saloon, together with some few pieces of Defensive Armour, which was preserved in the late building as an ornament to the walls of the Great Hall.

PICTURES FOR CHRISTMAS.



CHRISTMAS MORNING. GOING TO CHURCH. DRAWN BY DODGSON.

CHRISTMAS-LORE is so rife with details of Ceremonies, Sports, and Games, befitting this Great Feast, that it would be much easier to fill half our Number with such matters than to avoid relating many a thrice-told tale in mere selection. In all these characteristic celebra-

ties there is a rude picturesqueness which is admirably suited for illustration by the pencil; and our Artists have, accordingly, chosen severa



CHRISTMAS EVE IN GERMANY. MARTIN LUTHER AND HIS FAMILY. FROM A PRINT LATELY PUBLISHED AT LEIPSIC.

phases of the Hospitalities of Christmas—past and present—from the scene preparatory to the good cheer, to its consummation with all the pageant glories of a bygone age. How long the season of the Nativity has been observed with such fervid hospitality, it were hard to tell: thirteen centuries since, Christmas Day was forbidden to be kept as a fast, by a law which anathematized such as “did not duly honour the birthday of Christ, according to the flesh, but pretended to honour it by fasting on that day.” The practice, probably, became extinct in later times: at all events, it was not found necessary to repeat the canon; and we are not acquainted with any positive regulations specially affecting the observance of Christmas, subsequent to the above date.

First in the Gallery is a Picture of our own times—

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

(See front page)

Up to town! up to town!
Presents pour from dale and down,
Per rail and mail, wain and sail;
Haste through winter's foggy frown,
Cheese from Cheddar, ham from Hants,
From kind uncles, cousins, aunts:
Looming through the distance murky,
Lo! the noble Norfolk turkey.
Oh! never man could lay embargo
On a better, braver cargo.

Up to town! up to town!
Gifts, to honour Christmas' crown,
Tumble in from boxes, bins,
Baskets, hampers, to our inns.
Victor's car, with glory varnished,
Never could be better garnished
Than with trophies like to these:
Capitol, behold thy geese.

Up to town! up to town!
Pheasant doom'd to be done brown.

Here we have depicted the arrival of a goodly host of Presents at the Hall, wherewith to maintain “the solid pleasures” of the season; for we moderns have kept the substance of the celebrations, though we may have dispensed with their ancient shadows; and the old carol is nearly as applicable to the provisions of our day as of a century and a half since:

Now thrice welcome, Christmas,
Which brings us good cheer,
Mine'd pies and plum-porridge,
Good ale, and strong beer;
With pig, goose, and capon,
The best that may be,
So well doth the weather
And our stomachs agree.

It is true that we find not the “fat beeves” in the list, and “plum-porridge” is but an approach to our national pudding.

Meanwhile, improved modes of transit have, doubtless, increased the number of these periodical Presents: a basket of fish, or a barrel of oysters, is no longer likely to “waste its sweetness” in a coach-office; the railway has proved the best preventive of such domestic disappointments. Last year, too, we pictured the coach laden with poultry and game from that land of milk and honey—Norfolk and Suffolk—this year almost superseded by the Railway, opened but a short time since, just in time for the Christmas traffic. Then, the swarm of luxuries is almost incredibly swollen by poultry from the Continent, another contribution of the giant steam; and we borrow “Christmas Trees” from Germany, and rich fruits from the sunny south of France in almost interminable tasteful variety. Hence, there is no lack of maintenance of the good old English custom of “Christmas Presents.”

The Picture now shifts to

CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY,

As an appropriate Illustration of which, we give an Engraving of Luther and his Family celebrating Christmas Eve according to German custom, which makes it a children's festival. The great Reformer was a man of strong domestic affections, with nothing of the asceticism of Calvin and the later Churchmen. He was fond of children and music, and we here find him in the midst of both. The Christmas Tree is lighted up; his wife is there, the fair Catherine Born (her portrait at Coburg is very beautiful, but the face has a shade of thought a little too pensive for happiness); the aged mother sits by the stove; all is an exact transcript of German middle-class life, as it exists nearly unaltered to the present time; and the hand that burnt the Pontiff's bull is running over the strings of his instrument in accord with a hymn of gratitude chanted by the voice that defied Kings and Councils, and shook St. Peter's Chair to its foundation. But the part of the picture to which we more particularly direct attention is the “Christmas Tree.” It is the great feature in the Festival of Christmas Eve as kept throughout Germany, though between the north and south, the Protestant and Catholic provinces, some differences in the observance exist. It is almost a matter of surprise that so pretty a custom has not obtained a more general footing in England, especially as the lighting-up of the “Christmas Tree” was regularly practised in the family circle of the old Court, when the children of George the Third were young.

During the week before Christmas it is quite common, in the towns of Northern Germany, to see carts going about the streets, loaded with young fir trees, which are bought and prepared for the anxiously expected evening. The tree is set upright in a block of wood; on the branches are placed small wax tapers; to them are also hung bon-bons, cakes, gilded nuts, apples, ribbons, all made as gay and brilliant as possible, varying in splendour with the means of the family. Round the tree are placed the presents of toys, &c., which are to be distributed among the children. The hopes and fears, the little triumphs, and the unbound merriment may easily be imagined.

In South Germany, Rhenish Bavaria, and the Catholic States, something of a religious character has been blended with the celebration. The children are told that the Christ-child (Christ-kindschen) brings the gifts, and some one represents it, dressed in white, with gilt crown and wings, and a long white veil ornamented with gold. The custom, however, is dying out; many thinking it irreverent, besides involving a deceit, into which the elder children are obliged to be admitted as partners. In other respects, the custom in North and South Germany is much the same. We subjoin a more lengthened account of it by Wm. Howitt:

In the descriptions of Christmas Eve by Richter, and by Coleridge, the Christmas Tree is by one said to be birch, in the other, yew. Possibly this may be the fact in some parts of Germany, or it may be, in one case, a mistake of the translator, in the other of the author; the Tree is generally, if not always, of fir. The poor, in their small dwellings, must find it somewhat difficult to set up the Tree and their gifts, unknown to the children. That was probably the reason that formerly it was first exhibited to the children on Christmas morning, before day-light, having been set up after they were in bed. We are told, however, that it is every year becoming more common for the poor to bring out their Tree in the evening, the children being sent out of the way on some pretext or another, while it is done. And in truth, there, as all over the world, the gifts of the poor are soon displayed. It is quite affecting to see the little simple things which the poor people will buy as Christmas gifts for their children. Little dolls, of a few kreuzers in value; some even of the mere cost of an English penny. As you pass their cottages in the evening for a fortnight afterwards, you may see, by the lights within, the little Tree, with a few apples and little figures hung on it, standing on a table, and the children around it admiring it; if there be a baby, some of them holding it up to see the precious sight. But not only the poor in their cottages have their Christmas Tree: in schools and other institutions it is set up. A prettier or more affecting sight we have seldom seen, than the celebration of Christmas Day in the Infant School at Heidelberg. Here, at three o'clock in the afternoon, were the parents and children, the patrons and friends of the School, assembled. Upwards of eighty little boys and girls, all under six years of age, were seated on low forms in the middle of the school, opposite to the master's desk, in front of which, on a raised platform, stood four tall Christmas Trees, or, as they called them, Sugar Trees, decorated with the usual appendages of cakes, apples, &c.; and at their feet stood a row of tapers ready to be kindled. Besides these were various coloured engravings: an excellent one, of “Christ Blessing the Little Children,” a kind of erection of straw-work, containing stages, on one of which was a dancing bear, on another a tournament, with knights riding, with candles burning all over it. These figures revolved by means of a perpendicular spindle, having attached to its top a sort of fan, like the ventilator of a window, which was moved by the warm air ascending from the candles. There were many funny little three-legged pots, of true German fashion, set on the platform amongst the lights, a gift to the children from some one to amuse them in their school play-hours. To the right sat the spectators, many ladies and gentlemen of the place; to the left, the parents of the children. The master lit up the tapers on the trees, and the row of them at their feet, and a murmur of delight rose from the little troop of children. The blinds had all been drawn down, to exclude as much of the exterior light as possible, and the scene was very bright. The master read from his desk an address prepared for the occasion, and after the little scholars had sung a Christmas Hymn or two very prettily, they were dismissed, one by one, with their pinwheels full of toys, good warm articles of clothing, and a quantity of cakes and apples, the former of which had been sent as a Christmas gift to them by a worthy baker. It was pleasant to see the delighted faces of all pre-

sent; the eager looks of the parents, as their children came forward to receive their presents; and how the mothers, as they advanced towards the door, snatched them up, and carried them off, gifts and all together. Even inmates of the asylums, as if they were at home amongst their children, are treated to a Christmas Tree, and the brilliance of Christmas Eve. It is the great sacred festival of Germany, and is much more regarded than Sunday. Such are the Christmas customs of Germany.

In the “Christmas and Christmas Carols,” just published by T. B. Sharpe, we find the following

LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Tis Christmas Eve, and through the ancient town Rest and rejoicing meet—
A little child comes wandering sadly down The silent street.
Alone, and very sorrowful is he, Fatherless and motherless; He has no friend on earth a Christmas Tree.
For him to dress.
With tearful gaze, he turns his steps aside, Where gleams the light From a tall house, and youthful figures glide Before his sight,
As each, with festal dress, and happy brow, Surrounds a gorgeous tree; And there he asks, “Amid these is there now No place for me?”
Alas! alas! no place for him is there, With scornful jest, They drive him forth, into the cold night air,
To seek for rest
'Neath some more modest roof, where warmer hearts A nook may spare,
And gladly own that sharing joy imparts More to their share!

Hark! 'tis a burst of hearty merriment, The child draws nigh—
'Tis from a burgher's simple tenement. With longing sigh,
He watches the glad group of faces bright,
And so for him He thinks the Fir-tree once was decked with lights;
His eyes grow dim.
And timidly he knocks, again to tell His piteous tale.
Alas! for him—stony ears it fell Without avail!
The door is closed against him, and in vain With grief indeed, He gazes through the latticed window-pane—
No one takes heed!
Turn we now to a scene of graver aspect:—

CHRISTMAS MORNING,

with the Vicar receiving the congratulations of his parishioners at the Church; for, at this season, “every Christian should show his gratitude to the Almighty, for the inestimable benefits procured to us by the Native of our blessed Saviour, by an ample display of good will toward our fellow men.” To be “ready to distribute” is, likewise, one of the most grateful orisons of the day; and how past generations, rich in this world's wealth, have bequeathed such goods to their posterity, the walls of yon ancient church tell in letters of gold; and how the hearts and homes of the needy are gladdened by the bounties of this day; happily, every town and hamlet will attest. A glance at the venerable church recalls the glorious opening of our great poet's “Oration for the Morn of Christmas:”—

This is the month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,
Of Wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born,
Our great Redemption from above did bring;
For so our hoile sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCILMEN.—Monday being St. Thomas's Day, the annual election of Common Councillors for the respective wards of the city of London took place with the usual formalities. The Corn-law question, which formed the principal subject of discussion at these meetings last year, was replaced on the present occasion by the more locally interesting dispute between the Court of Aldermen and the members of the Common Council on the subject of the Freeman's Qualification Bill. In almost every ward the members of the lower court took opportunity to lecture the presiding Aldermen for their unwillingness to support the bill; and at one or two meetings—Walbrook, for instance—the Aldermen objected to put resolutions on the subject placed in their hands for that purpose.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL AND THE COURT OF ALDERMEN.—A dispute has arisen between the Court of Common Council and the Court of Aldermen, which has excited some interest in the City. At a recent Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor refused to put a question as to the passing of “a bill for declaring the qualification of freemen of London to be elected members of the Common Council,” on the ground that the Court of Common Council had no legislative power to originate laws. The Common Council say it is obvious if such be the case, that all the laws which have been made by them for ages have been originated in error; the Court of Aldermen, under the guidance of their Recorder, have slept upon their rights, and the Court of Common Council, under the guidance of the same Recorder, have been allowed to pass laws which, according to his present view, they had no power to pass. The committee of the whole Court of Common Council met last Saturday, and passed strong resolutions, expressing their determination to assert the right of the citizens to control, through the responsible members of the body, the expenditure of the City cash. A Court of Aldermen was also held on Saturday, at which the Lord Mayor presided, to take into consideration the proceedings of the members of the Court of Common Council. Several members of the Court of Aldermen condemned, some of them in sever language, the conduct of the Common Council.

REMOVAL OF WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE.—A preliminary meeting of several of the principal inhabitants of Westminster, interested in preserving the present site for a new bridge, was held on Monday, at the King's Arms, Palace-yard, Mr. W. Page Wood, Queen's Counsel, in the chair. Great surprise was expressed by the meeting that the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods, &c., should have authorised the erection of a new bridge on a distant site, in direct opposition to the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons of last Session. It was urged by several of the gentlemen present that a measure involving such ruinous loss of trade and property to so large a body of individuals on both sides of the river, could only be justified by overwhelming public necessity; that no such necessity exists; and that, therefore, it becomes the duty of all those who are interested to oppose, by every means in their power, a measure fraught with loss to hundreds, and almost ruin to many. A committee was immediately formed, for calling a public meeting, directly after Christmas, on the subject, and a requisition was forwarded to Sir De Lacy Evans to take the chair. Instructions were given to the Committee to solicit the aid of all influential parties to join in opposing the bill for the removal (by counsel, if necessary), in the Committees of the Houses of Parliament.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The first annual meeting of this association was held on Wednesday, in Coleman-street. Mr. John W. Totle, the deputy chairman, presided, and Lord Radnor and Viscount Ebrington were on the platform. The report presented a favourable account of the operations of the association. A piece of ground has been obtained, nearly opposite Old St. Pancras Church, for erecting suitable buildings for the accommodation of the labouring classes, to combine greatly improved accommodation with diminished rent. The buildings, it is expected, will be finished within twelve months from the present time. From the financial statement, it appeared that £7,963 had been received, and £2,094 expended.

SEASONABLE BOUNTY.—LONDON PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION FOR DISTRIBUTING BREAD AND COALS.—Numerous have been the donations lately received. Amongst others, R. R. Wood, Esq., £20; Luke Hansard, Esq., £10 10s.; B. B. Cabel, Esq., M.P., £10 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Richardson, £15 10s.; R. J. Holford, Esq., £10 10s.; the Hon. Miss Harley, £10.

RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—On Tuesday a simultaneous rise in the price of bread took place throughout the metropolis; the household quality being advanced from 7d. to 8½d., and the best wheaten from 2½d. to 10d. In the market, on Monday, flour rose 3s. per sack.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—The total number of deaths registered in the metropolitan districts during the week ending Saturday, the 19th inst., was 1,262—an amount, we regret to say, considerably above the average of the last five autumns, in which the mortality stands as 1,000. The deaths from violence, privation, cold, and intemperance during the week were very nearly double the autumnal average, being 46 against 27. During the same period 1,311 births were registered in the metropolis, being an excess over the mortality of only 49.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK—SECOND EDITION OF 40,000.

This Day, Price 1s., gilt edges.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK, AND PICTURESQUE CALENDAR FOR 1847.

This ALMANACK is submitted to the Public by the Proprietors, with confidence of its superiority over its predecessors. The Work was commenced in 1845, with a view of furnishing Repository of Useful Knowledge of permanent value for constant reference, in Astronomy, Astronomical Occurrences, and the Natural History of the Year.

The ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT has been placed entirely under the superintendence of JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.A.S., and of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

The third page of each month is a series of tables of Memorable Events, carrying out in a true spirit what is usually and properly introduced into our Almanack: not for occasional reference only, but to cherish respect for these landmarks of British History.

The fourth page of each month is devoted to Natural History. The whole of this portion is from the very able pen of Mrs. LOUDON; and the interesting series of illustrations to this department has been drawn and engraved by Miss LOUDON, under the immediate superintendence of Mrs. LOUDON.

The Calendar Illustrations are from the masterly pencil of WILLIAM HARVEY, and engraved in the first style of Art, by LINTON, Illustrative of the National Sports.

Published at the Office of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, 198, Strand.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 27.—First Sunday after Christmas—St. John the Evangelist.

MONDAY, 28.—Innocents—Mars rises at 5h. 5m. a.m.

TUESDAY, 29.—Jupiter sets at 6h. 6m. a.m.

WEDNESDAY, 30.—Venus sets at 4h. 11m. p.m.

THURSDAY, 31.—Silvester—Mercury rises at 6h. 16m. a.m.

FRIDAY, Jan. 1.—Circumcision.

SATURDAY, 2.—The Sun rises 3 deg. S. of E. 8h. 8m. a.m.

HIGH WATER at London-bridge, for the Week ending January 2.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M. h. m. 10 10	A. h. m. 10 50	M. h. m. 11 25	A. h. m. 11 57	M. h. m. 0 0	A. h. m. 1 18

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“Moderata,” Etham.—Received.

“J. G. M.”—We have not room for the Dance.

“J. W.” Commercial-road, to recover a Lodger's goods, illegally seized for rent, should apply to the Police Magistrate of the district.

“A. B.” had better follow the printed form of Will, to be purchased of any Law Stationer.

“Sarah,” Fulham.—The—Misses, &c.

“J. B.”—We have not room.

“J. B.” Petworth.—Canaries may be purchased of G. Hartnall, 2, Edward-street, Soho.

“A Subscriber” is thanked for his Sketches of the York Dinner, though we have not room for their insertion.

“Fanatica per la Musica” is recommended to address his suggestion to the Proprietors of the New Speculation.

“J. W.” Granby, is entitled to the Print, and should apply for it to his News-Agent.

“Zoe” is jocose.

“A.”—We have not room for the lines on Christmas.

“F. T.”—The distance from Dover Harbour to Calais Harbour is about twenty-one miles; from Calais to Boulogne, by road, twenty miles.

“J. C.” Cornhill.—Mr. Green's Nassau Balloon will contain 70,000 feet of coal gas, which, at the time the balloon was constructed (in 1836) cost £70: we do not know the present cost.

“+” is thanked, but we have not room.

“W. M.”

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1846.

PARLIAMENT is to assemble on Tuesday, the 19th of January—the day originally mentioned. At the Privy Council held last Saturday, it was ordered that a proclamation should be issued, convening Parliament on the day in question for the despatch of business.

We lately expressed a belief that Austria is degenerating as a Government, even from its own bad principles of policy. Its wisdom was always that of the serpent rather than the sage, but still it displayed intelligence—a clearly enough calculated adaptation of certain means to certain ends, both bad, but successful in their evil purpose. Metternich was one of the ablest statesmen of the secondary order, relying always on force and repression, discouraging talent in any sphere of action, and particularly in the service of the State, fearing the power even of a clever instrument. A dead level of mediocrity on which he, as the sole possessor of power, might stand alone, with nothing to do but command, was what he wished to create around him; and he has succeeded. An administration of thirty years has enabled him to repress all rising talent—to blight all aspiring energy; and now, as he is sinking under the pressure of age and infirmities, there is no one to take his place. The studied discouragement of ability which has been a rule of Government in Austria, has effectually deprived the Crown of statesmen and generals: what the future may produce we know not, but at present such is the case. The dungeons of Spielberg have closed over all who dared to think, and the best men in the country are exiles. High birth and great stupidity have been, and are, the qualifications for office in Austria, in the civil service as in the military. It has become a common observation that the cleverest man in an Austrian regiment is the drummer, and the dullest a general.

Such is the system, and its results are what might be expected. Metternich, in his dotage, has become a tool instead of a power, and in his name the folly of the Austrian Cabinet governs; the reign of his craft is over, and nothing better has arisen instead of it. The finances of the country are said to be in confusion; the Italian States are dissatisfied and wait but a signal to break the yoke of the uncongenial Germans; and last and worst, the Government has been overreached by Russia, who has induced it to accept the city of Cracow, and thus become ostensibly the last spoiler of Poland, while, in so doing, she is but serving the purpose of the Autocrat. The destruction of the Charter of Cracow is no real gain to Austria, is but little loss to Poland; other consequences, however, may not be trifling; the act openly violates the Treaty of Vienna; that last settlement of the nations of Europe is dissolved; and, as so much is held together by that parchment bond, the Powers that call themselves Empires in virtue of the signatures thereto attached, had best be prepared for the consequences of their want of faith. Prussia and Austria will suffer the most hereafter; they are both "Paper States," that is, they are Kingdoms by treaties and alliances rather than by national spirit and unity. England and France are both powers and nations; Russia has a sort of national unity in her Slavonic race; but Austria and Prussia, on the least disturbance in Europe, would fall asunder, and races who now stand in a compelled allegiance would form new alliances according to natural affinities of language and religion. It is the peculiar tact of politicians like Metternich to disguise the weakness of their Government and impress others with the idea of its strength. There is a political credit as well as a commercial one. But it requires clever management to lull suspicion of a breaking firm; perhaps it is a matter of congratulation that Austria's talent of hypocrisy is failing her. For her flagrant breach of the Treaty of Vienna, it might reasonably be expected that some colourable defence would be given; but even the ability to get up a piece of special pleading seems wanting to the Austrian Cabinet. It is scarcely credible that Austria avows plainly and directly the doctrine that no Treaties are to be kept by any State strong enough to break them! We have long believed that the principle was more extensively acted on than avowed; but we were not prepared for so candid a confession by a Government so eminently cautious and conservative. But in the State paper which Austria has put forth as a defence of the seizure of Cracow, in reply to the French argument, that the violation of the Treaty of Vienna releases all other parties to it from its conditions, the Austrian Ministry says:—"It is neither the Conventions of Paris, nor of Vienna, nor the respect due to treaties, which has imposed any reserve on the French; if they had felt themselves strong enough to break them, they would long ago have done so, and we should not have blamed them. But these are questions of war." We may well ask, where was Metternich's cold, shrewd intellect, when this insane burst of ill-humour was suffered to go forth to the world; it is an absolute challenging France to war. Suppose she accept it, and prove her strength! It would not be long before a French General would date his despatches from head-quarters at Vienna, the power of Austria crumbled beneath the tread of his legions, the Emperor a fugitive before him, and the crazy fabric of Prussia shattered to pieces in his rear. It is not for States, three-fourths of whose power rests upon treaties, to bring contempt on their "titles-deeds;" Austria has done so. It is easy to see that the influence of Metternich has ceased, or is being overruled; with much to answer for, of two things he would never have been guilty—a blunder in the first place, and, in the next, a bad defence of it.

THE COURT AND HAUT TON.

THEATRICALS AT WOBURN ABBEY.—The Duke and Duchess of Bedford are entertaining a distinguished circle, at Woburn Abbey, comprising the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk and the Ladies Mary and Adeliza Fitzalan Howard, the Marquis of Granby, the Dowager Countess of Sefton and Ladies Molyneux, Viscount Mandeville, Viscountess Bury, Lord and Lady Charles Russell and Hon. Edward and Hon. Katherine Russell, Lord Cosmo Russell, Lord Edward F. Howard, Mr. A. and Lady C. A. Sanford, Mr. A. Stafford O'Brien, Mr. S. Rogers, Mrs. and Miss Magniac, Mr. B. Lyons, &c. On Saturday evening the "Theatre Royal, Woburn Abbey," as it is called, was opened for private theatricals; the performances (under the patronage of the Duchess of Norfolk) being "A Charade, in Three Parts, about Love and Fire!" The doors opened at half-past eight, and the performance commenced at nine o'clock. It was warmly applauded by a brilliant audience. The dialogue was admirable, and those assuming characters in the dramatic charade acquitted themselves exceedingly well. We are informed that Mr. A. Stafford O'Brien, M.P., was the author, and his classic acquirements are known to be of the highest order. The hospitality of the noble Duke and Duchess will be prolonged during the festive season, Lord and Lady John Russell, and a host of visitors of distinction being invited to the Abbey for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AMONG THE ARISTOCRACY.—Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston left Carlton-gardens, on Tuesday, for Broadlands, near Romsey, Hants, where the noble Viscount and Viscountess will receive a distinguished party, during the Christmas holidays.—The Marquis and Marchioness of Ely, and a select party, intend to pass the holidays at Ely Lodge, Fermanagh.—The Duke of Cleveland is dispensing his usual hospitality at Raby Castle to a numerous circle of friends, and will keep almost open house during the holidays, taking care, however, that the poor are not forgotten in attentions to the rich.—The Marchioness of Normanby has left town, for Viscount and Viscountess Barrington's seat, Beckett House, Berks. On Monday, the Marchioness proceeds to Paris.

Lady Adelaide Fitzclarence, who has been visiting her relations, Colonel and Mrs. Wyndham, at Petworth, has gone to pass the holidays with the Right Hon. G. L. and Mrs. Dawson Damer, at Came House, Dorsetshire.

The Earl of Cardigan has been entertaining the Marquess of Blandford, Viscount Canterbury, Viscount Clifden, the Hon. J. Macdonald, and Mr. Sturt, at Deane Park, his seat in Northamptonshire. The Countess of Cardigan has returned to town, after a lengthened tour in Germany and Italy.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL ALMS.—On Monday, her Majesty's Christmas bounty to poor persons above sixty years of age was distributed by the Royal Almoner, at the Almonry-office, Middle Scotland-yard. Upwards of 200 received 5s. each.

POSTSCRIPT.

RE-OPENING OF WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—On Thursday evening, the thoroughfare for carriages over this bridge, which has been closed since the 15th of August, in consequence of the dangerous state of some of the arches, was re-opened to the public. The heavy stone balustrade has been entirely removed, and a light wooden palisade, as a protection to foot passengers, substituted.

OPENING OF THE IPSWICH AND BURY ST. EDMUND'S RAILWAY.—This line of railway was opened on Thursday, for passenger traffic. It was originally intended to have taken place on Monday last; but Captain Coddington, the Government Inspector-General, having omitted to certify its opening, although he had officially inspected the works, and had verbally approved of their security, the Directors were compelled to disappoint the public until such time as the necessary proceedings were gone through. The route and character of the line has been already described by us.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

GERMANY.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA.—A letter from Vienna of the 13th says:—"The Prince Archbishop of Vienna, M. de Milde, has just had a narrow escape from assassination. In the morning of Wednesday last, while the Prelate was still in bed, his valet de chambre came into his room, and pulling open the curtains, exclaimed, 'Monseigneur, Jesus Christ has appeared to me during the night, and ordered me to cut the throat of the Archbishop of Vienna.' Immediately on pronouncing these words he drew a razor from his pocket and held it towards the throat of the Prelate. M. Milde, who perceived that his servant was labouring under an attack of mental alienation, had the presence of mind to say to him, 'Listen, my friend; if the Saviour has really charged you to take my life, you must do it, for no one should disobey God's commands; but you must do nothing without first addressing a prayer to the Almighty. Pray, and I will resign myself to die by your hand.' The domestic placed himself before a crucifix, and began a silent prayer. Whilst he was so engaged, the Prelate arose and went into an adjoining room, locking the door after him. The servant was afterwards secured, and placed in a lunatic asylum."

RUSSIA.

On Wednesday, the 9th of December, an accident which had nearly been attended with fatal results, occurred to the Emperor of Russia at Kiów, in Poland, upon the high road between St. Petersburg and Warsaw. The Emperor was on his route to Warsaw, and had arrived at the border of the large river at that place, where there is no bridge. A temporary platform had been constructed to run the Emperor's travelling carriage into the ferry-boat, when by some accident the platform gave way and broke down, and the carriage was precipitated into the water. The Emperor, with Count Orloff, who was also in the carriage, was obliged to escape from the windows and wade in the water, and as the current was running very strongly, and the river full of ice, no little danger was incurred.

So much time was lost, that the Emperor, who had arranged to be by a certain day at St. Petersburg, was obliged to renounce altogether his visit to Warsaw, and to turn back immediately to the Russian capital.

The river at Kiów is nearly half an English mile in width, and the erection of a suspension bridge, which has long been contemplated, will no doubt be now immediately decided on, especially as the Emperor was unable last year, on his journey to Warsaw, to pass the river at Kiów.

SCOTLAND.

LAMENTABLE DISTRESS.—In the Western Islands a population of fully 50,000 is bordering on starvation. The number of deaths from dysentery and cholera is increasing with fearful rapidity among the cottar class: and the small crofters are fast exhausting their small stores of corn. Most of them, says the *Scotsman*, now restrict themselves to one scanty meal per day; and the children and aged persons continue the greater part of their time in their miserable beds for the sake of warmth, and that they may require less food.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT ON THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW RAILWAY.—On Saturday night the passenger train which left Edinburgh for Glasgow at five o'clock was suddenly stopped a few hundred yards before arrival at the Castlegary station, in consequence of the complete blocking-up of the rails by the ruins of a previous train of luggage-waggons and cattle-trucks. A passenger by the train states that he never beheld such a scene of devastation and horror. Numbers of oxen—some alive or half alive, and some quite dead—were seen lying amongst the wreck of several of the trucks, and crowds of people were busily employed in endeavouring to extricate them. The ruins of the engine, or at all events a fire of some kind, was on the bank smoking and burning, and several of the trucks lay directly across the rails. No passengers by the train were injured, and no lives lost, except those of the cattle. How the accident occurred is not known. The passenger in question, who luckily succeeded in procuring a carriage for himself and some ladies, were the only passengers that had arrived in Glasgow up to 10 o'clock on Saturday night.

IRELAND.

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting on Monday last Mr. O'Connell announced that there was no longer any hope of a reconciliation with the Young Irelanders, and he then proceeded to comment very strongly upon Mr. Smith O'Brien. Before the hon. and learned gentleman commenced his speech, however,

Mr. John O'Connell rose to report from the committee appointed to inquire the amount of money due by England to Ireland. He cited some articles from the London press to show that there was a deliberate design, on the part of England, to confiscate the property of Ireland, and hand it over probably to the London companies. The Irish landlords had often done the dirty work of England; but the ruler was about to throw away his tools. (Hear, hear.) If they did not come forward at once, their lands would be transferred *in globo* to those companies. The money which was already advanced, and still to be advanced, under the Labour Rate Act, would not amount to a moiety of the debt England owed to Ireland, and the Repeal Association would not consent to repay a shilling of those advances. (Cheers.)

Mr. O'Loughlin seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

Mr. O'Connell then rose, and after contradicting some statements of the local press, said that the association would henceforth have time to attend to their affairs, after the little by-battle with Young Ireland. There was an end of it and for ever. (Cheers.) The Association would work its way for the Repeal of the Union, totally regardless of the petty machinations of the Little Ireland gang in this country. He told them this—that he set them at defiance. (Here the meeting cheered lustily.) He did all he could to put an end to the dissensions—he did all boldly and manfully. He had been very much assailed by friends of his for stooping to the yoke of Young Ireland. He had been told they would triumph over him in their newspapers, and they had the bad taste to do so. He knew the Tory and Whig papers in England, and the Tory papers in Ireland, would sing songs of triumph; but all did not prevent him from making the offer of conciliation. (Cheers.) He made that sacrifice of his feelings—he made a sacrifice of his pride—but he felt that his fifty years' service in the cause of Ireland enabled him to act as he had done. (Cheers.) He offered to place the palms of his hands under their feet, to make a road for them to come back, and he had been met by an ungrateful and ungracious refusal. Mr. O'Brien had refused his proposal for a reconciliation, and added insult to injury. He (Mr. O'Connell) then read a passage from Mr. O'Brien's letter to Dr. Miley, which was to the effect that the proposal was a mere pretext. The phrase he complained of was totally untrue. (Hear, hear.) Well, his offer for conciliation was refused, and called a triumph. Why, it was he (Mr. O'Connell) that had a triumph—if any really had taken place. As well might an old dung-hill cock crow at a game cock and boast of victory because he did not succeed in vexing him. (Laughter.) They would indeed have consented to the conference on the main question—that of the legality of physical force—if the Association were handed over to Duffy and Mitchell and the other young fellows. Why, he would rather see the Association scattered to the winds, than fall under the guidance of such persons. (Cheers.) Nothing but the gross vanity of a pack of poetic writers and prose scribblers could enable them to say they had obtained a triumph over him or the Association. (Hear.) Oh! but the "Repeal rent was diminishing;" was not that accounted for by the state of the country? (Hear.) But while he had sixteen parts of the Association should not submit to them. (Cheers.) Some doubts were expressed as to where the dissensions commenced—why they commenced with Mr. Smith O'Brien's foolish conduct in the House of Commons. Some of the English papers called him a Brummagem martyr (laughter), but he did not call him that.

DREADFUL STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The accounts given of the state of the country by the Irish provincial journals are very afflicting. A number of additional deaths from starvation are recorded, and the peasantry are said to be famishing.

POVERTY RIOTS IN TIPPERARY.—MURDER.—The following communication has been addressed to the *Dublin Evening Post*:

"CAHER, Dec. 20.—The country is in a frightful state; robberies of all descriptions, flour in particular, notwithstanding the protection of police escorts. As I write this, a company of soldiers has been called out of the barracks here to protect a quantity of flour on its way from Clonmel to Limerick and Tipperary. Last evening, about one hundred and fifty carts laden with flour, the property of several persons, accompanied by police, on the way to Tipperary, had only gone half a mile outside this town when the drivers were obliged to return back, the road being blockaded by armed men, and women with other weapons, and determined to take the flour at risk of life. I cannot enumerate or describe the quantity of robberies and the appalling distress of the people."

"FOUR O'CLOCK.—DREADFUL MURDER.—A man residing in the neighbourhood of Tipperary was barbarously robbed and murdered on Friday night. I saw the murdered man yesterday morning."

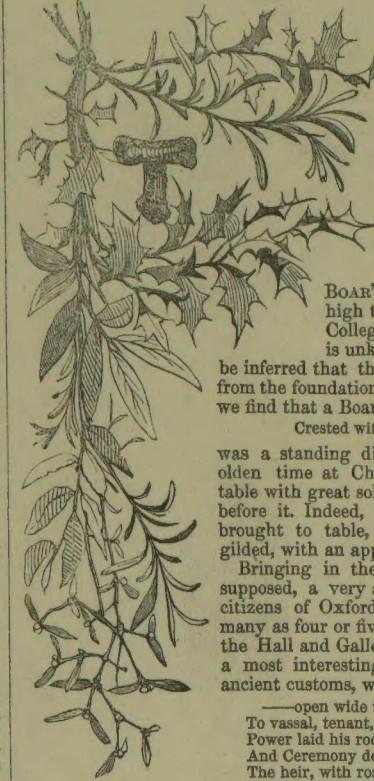
DEATHS FROM STARVATION IN MAYO.—The *Dublin Evening Post* has the following regarding the state of Mayo:—"We have seen a letter addressed to one of the trustees of the India Poor Relief Fund, dated Castlebar, Dec. 19, in which the writer narrates the appalling fact, that thirty-one persons have died from starvation in Castlebar and the adjoining districts during the last two months."

GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR THE ADVANTAGE OF IRELAND.—An important document has been published in Ireland, addressed by the Treasury to the Board of Works. The immediate object is to increase, to the fullest possible extent that the existing law will permit, the facilities for extending Drainage and Productive Works. A supplementary minute, dated the 16th instant, refers to contemplated changes in the law, with view of removing the impediments to improvements on entailed estates. The intention of the measure is to empower landed proprietors to sell portions of entailed estates, or enable the Government to do so

in case arrears accumulate, for advances made from the Treasury for improvements.

MEETING OF LANDED PROPRIETORS.—An important meeting of the landed proprietors of the county of Longford has taken place, at which the first decided step was taken for an assemblage of the Irish members of the House of Commons in Dublin early in January, to be assisted by a Committee of five gentlemen from each county, to suggest measures calculated to extricate the landed proprietors from the formidable evils that are impending. All parties, including Mr. O'Connell, Sir Percy Nugent, Mr. George Alexander Hamilton, and Mr. A. Lefroy, are described as concurring in this movement, which is likely to extend to all the other counties.

PICTURES FOR CHRISTMAS.



HE Engraving upon the annexed page depicts an old custom, probably, of the age of Chaucer; it is commemorated in one of our earliest printed books, and is retained, yet with many innovations, to this day. Such is
BRINGING IN THE BOAR'S HEAD.

THE origin of the ceremony of bringing in the BOAR'S HEAD with singing to the high table in the Hall of Queen's College, Oxford, on Christmas Day, is unknown; but it may reasonably be inferred that the custom has been observed from the foundation of the College in 1340, since we find that a Boar's Head,

Crested with bay and rosemary,

was a standing dish in the Baronial Halls in olden time at Christmas, and was ushered to table with great solemnity, trumpeters sounding before it. Indeed, a whole Boar was sometimes brought to table, adorned with rosemary and gilded, with an apple or orange in its mouth.

Bringing in the Boar's Head is, as may be supposed, a very attractive scene to the good citizens of Oxford, there being sometimes as many as four or five hundred of them ranged in the Hall and Gallery looking into the Hall, and a most interesting sight it is, recalling the ancient customs, when stood

—open wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And Ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose;
The lord, undergating, share
The vulgar game of "post and pair."
All hailed with uncontrolled delight
And general voice, the happy night
That to the cottage as the crown
Brought tidings of salvation down.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

The Boar's Head, highly decorated with bay, holly, rosemary, &c., in a large pewter dish, is slowly borne into the Hall by two strong servants of the College, who hold it up as high as they can, that it may be seen by the visitors ranged on either side of the Hall. The gentleman who sings the ancient Carol, or "Boar's Head Song," (generally one of the members of the College, though, sometimes, one of the Choir of Magdalene College) immediately precedes the Boar's Head, and as he commences the song with "The Boar's Head in hand bear I," touches the dish with his right hand. Two young choristers from Magdalene College follow, to sing, conjointly with many of the junior members of Queen's College, the chorus "Caput Apri Defero," &c. The dish is carried, as before stated, to the high table, where sit the Provost, Bursar, Fellows, &c., and about which many visitors are congregated.

The Carol, consisting of a bass solo, with chorus, chanted at this old "time honoured" ceremony, is one altered from "A Caroll bryngynge in the Bore's Head," in a collection of "Christmases Carolles newly emprynt at London in the Fleet-strete, at the sygne of the Sonne, by Wynkyn de Worde. The yere of our Lord M.D.XX," and is as follows.

THE BOAR'S HEAD SONG.

The Boar's Head in hand bear I,
Bedeck'd with bay and rosemary,
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio.
Caput Apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino.
The Boar's Head, as I understand,
Is the bravest dish in all the land,
When thus bedeck'd with a gay garland,
Let us seruite cantico.
Caput Apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino.
Our steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of Bliss,
Which on this day to be served is
In Regnensi Atrio.
Caput Apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino.

The quaint original, which, in the third verse at least, we prefer to the version sung at Queen's, runs thus:

A CAROLL, BRYNGYNG IN THE BORE'S HEED.

Caput Apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino.
The Bore's Head in hand brings I,
With garlands gay and rosemary,
I pray you all syng merely,
Qui estis in convivio.
The Bore's Head I understande
Is the chefe servyce in this lande,
Loke where ever it be fande.
Sernite cum cantico.
Be gladdie lordes, both more and lasse
For this hath ordeyned our stewarde,
To chere you all this Christmasse
The Bore's Head with mustarde.

The air of the chant is very beautiful, and adds greatly



PICTURES FOR CHRISTMAS.—BRINGING IN THE BOAR'S HEAD, AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE OXFORD.—DRAWN BY J. L. WILLIAMS.



PICTURES FOR CHRISTMAS.—THE MISLETOE.—DRAWN BY KENNY MEADOWS

THE THEATRES.

THE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

This evening the pits and galleries of all the theatres will be in their usual state of "Boxing Night" excitement. We shall offer in our next, an account of the various entertainments: at present, we can merely state what they are to be.

DRURY LANE puts forward a pantomime written by Mr. Madison Morton, whose "Gulliver" last year was so successful. It is called "Harlequin St. George and the Dragon," and the "Legend of the Champion Saint winning the hand of Sabra and overcoming the Dragon," is grotesquely followed. The plot represents *Kalyba* and her attendant demons, *Earth, Air, Fire, and Water*, surprised by the sudden arrival of the "March of Intellect" who interrupts their attempts at mischief. *Almanza*, King of Morocco (Mr. T. Matthews), arrives to claim the hand of the *Princess Sabra* (Mr. Hance), daughter of *King Potemky* (Mr. Priorson), but before the marriage takes place, she (*Sabra*) is abducted by the *Dragon* (Mr. Wieland), whom *St. George* (Mr. W. H. Payne) overcomes. And then the fun begins. *Harlequin*, Mr. Howell; *Clown*, Mr. T. Matthews; *Pantaloan*, Mr. Priorson; *Columbine*, Miss Hicks. The scenery in the opening represents Earth, Air, and Water; this is followed by the abode of the March of Intellect, Little St. George's abode, Great St. George's abode, a representation of dawn, which changes to the Egyptian coast. We are next regaled with the view of a grand palace, the *dances* of the *Dragon*, and the grand transformation scene. The comic business commences with a curiosity shop. This is political, and alludes to the *statute*-*tal* embellishments of the new House of Lords. The second scene is elaborate; it represents corn-chandlers, with some allusions to the League and Abolition, and changes to the emblems of plenty. The third is a Siamese cottage, with some imitations of the Ethiopian Serenaders. Fourth is an ironmonger's shop, with gun-cotton and other explosive materials. The fifth is a toyshop, with Wellington's statue. This is purchased by the *infantry* of some noble family, and they drag it away to Hyde Park Corner. The opening is very long; but, perhaps this is an advantage, as there is usually more fun in it than in the harlequinade which follows. The piece concludes with a grand Allegorical *Tableau*, in honour of the Duke of Wellington.

The **HAYMARKET** has a burlesque (the only one of the season), by Mr. Planché, taken from the inexhaustible stores of the Countess d'Anvis, and called "The Invisible Prince;" the name of the original story being, we believe, "Prince Lutin." *Leander*, the hero of the drama, is a handsome young fellow, hated by an ugly dwarfish Prince, who seeks his destruction. *Leander*, however, obtains the protection of a powerful fairy, whose life he has saved, under the form of a snake. In return for the service rendered her, she bestows upon him a cap, by which he can render himself invisible, and also three roses—one of which will supply him with money whenever he wants it, the second will inform him whether his mistress be faithful or not, and the third will prevent his being sick. Provided with these powerful talismans, the Prince sets out on his travels, with his gallant steed, *Gris-de-line*; meets many strange and wonderful adventures, and falls in love with the beautiful Princess of the Island of Calm Delights. This delectable creature has been brought up in a hatred of men, secluded from the world, and only attended by young damsels, in the peaceful island, to which *Leander* gains access by means of his fairy cap. The handsome intruder gains the love of the Princess, overcomes his ugly rival, *Prince Furbond*, and eventually is united to the lovely object of his affections. The *Invisible Prince* will be personated by Miss P. Horton; the *Princess of the Isle of Calm Delights* by Miss Julia Bennett. Mr. James Bland has, of course, the part of a tyrannical, ugly Prince assigned to him. We should not believe in any burlesque at the Haymarket, in which Mr. Bland had not a good opportunity for displaying his inimitable blustering.

At the **LYCEUM**, a pantomime will be played, for the first time since Mrs. Keeley has held the theatre. It is written by Mr. Stoqueler, the author of "Polka-mania," and founded upon Roscoe's well-known juvenile poem of "The Butter-fly's Ball." The dresses are exceedingly fanciful and splendid.

The **ADELPHI** has no real Christmas entertainment; the management appearing to think, (and with some reason), that both burlesques and pantomimes have been somewhat overdone. But it has a new three-act drama, written by Mr. R. B. Peake, called "Columba, or the Corsican Sister," in which all the principal members of the Adelphi company will appear. It is founded on a romantic tale, illustrative of the barbarous custom prevailing amongst the Corsicans, by which the revenging of an injury or insult committed against an individual deceased is regarded as a sacred duty by his nearest of kin; hence, to give the *rembecco*—that is, to reprove a person with not having avenged himself, is the most deadly insult that can be offered a Corsican. Madame Celeste plays the *Corsican Sister*; the other principal characters will be supported by Mrs. Yates, Miss Woolgar; Messrs. Howe, Wright, Bedford, O. Smith, Selby, Lambert, &c. "The Phantom Dancers" will be played afterwards, its attraction continuing very great.

The **PRINCES'** has a pantomime called "The Enchanted Beauty of the Golden Castle"; or, *Harlequin* and the One-Eyed Ogre."

The **OLYMPIC** pantomime is written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, and is called "King Alfred the Great"; or, *Harlequin* History and the *Enchanted Raven*. A good notion is worked out in the opening scene—the Wallalla, or Hall of British Heroes—where the most important characters in history are grouped after the style of Madame Tussaud's exhibition, and deliver various opinions. During a consultation for a subject, *Fable* and *Travestie* appear. A contrast is suggested between *Alfred the Great*, of cake-making fame, and *Alfred the Little*, of velvet unimaginable notoriety. The second scene is the Court-yard of the Castle Uffington, and introduces us to *Edwin*, afterwards *Harlequin* (Cormack); and *Efrida*, subsequently *Columbine* (Miss Ann Mott); then comes *Guthrum*, the Danish chief, afterwards *Clown* (Jeffery); with *Greybald*, afterwards *Pantaloan* (Hartland). Scene 3 represents The Druid's Cave and Blowing Stone at Kingling Lisle. *King Alfred* enters in fear and trembling, but is reassured by an invisible chorus that "aid is near." Scene 4 is the Cottage, and *Dame Winifred* is cooking her cakes; *Alfred* undertakes to help her. Scene 5 is Salisbury Plain. Scene 6, The Danish Encampment at Stonehenge, with a mock concert *à la Juillet*. Scene 7, and the last of the introduction, the Fairy Land of Fable. Here the transformation takes place. Mr. Blanchard's pieces are always filled with very fair hits at the topics of the day.

ASTLEY'S has turned the story of "The Forty Thieves" into a pantomime, which is said to have been got up at a great expense. The old melodrama has been taken as the foundation of the piece, but the robbers are represented by our most notorious highwaymen. The comic business includes a panoramic view of the Wellington Statue procession, Fairlop Fair, &c. A feature in the piece will be a magnificent revolving wheel of gas at the conclusion, occupying nearly the entire stage. The comic business will be supported by Mr. Rochez, as *Clown*; M. Safferini, *Pantaloan*; Mr. W. H. Harvey, *Harlequin*; and Miss Louisa Waite, *Columbine*. The pantomime has been written by Mr. Nelson Lee, and produced by Mr. W. D. Broadfoot.

The **SURREY** has an original plot for "The King of the Castle"; or, *Harlequin* in the Land of Dreams." **SADLER'S WELLS** puts forward "Harlequin and a Happy New Year;" the **CITY OF LONDON** turns the life of Richard the Third into a pantomime, under the name of "He with the Hump;" and the **QUEEN'S** rejoices in certain passages connected with the history of Tom Tiddler.

The **VICTORIA** appears to have the most sensible subject for its pantomime of any we have seen, if it is well worked out. It is called "The Birth of the Steam-Engine, or Harlequin Go-a-Head and Joe Miller and his Men;" and it has an advantage in possessing Mr. T. Barry, so well known in "the ring" at Astley's and Vauxhall, as the *Clown*. From the programme in the bill there appears to be scope for an immense deal of fun, combined with more intention than is usually met with in pantomime openings; and it is to end with "a dazzling and brilliant dénouement, in a shower of variegated light, illuminated by the coloured radiance of myriads of revolving stars." This must be something terrifically imposing; and, as they used to say at Bartholomew Fair, "The price is threepence only—threepence to the Gallery."

We may add, as a rider (although it is scarcely necessary to do so), that the Wellington Statue forms a prominent feature in all the pantomimes.

HAYMARKET.

Under the somewhat perplexing title of "The Round of Wrong" an interesting domestic drama, in two acts, the serious interest of which predominates, was produced at this theatre, last Saturday evening. It is from the practised pen of Mr. Bayle Bernard, and is very carefully constructed, although, on its first representation, there were many scenes which stood in need of liberal cutting, the feeling of *ennui* during their progress being, in a great measure, produced by the over-sentimental dialogue, which, although written with evident care, at times became somewhat wearisome, since the story of the piece is, as we have hinted, of a sombre nature in itself. It is as follows:—*Sir Arthur Foljambe* (Mr. Smart) has, when young, formed an imprudent marriage with a girl moving in a sphere far below his own, by whom he has a daughter. Afraid of the affair coming to his father's ears, he cast off the mother and child, who, in their destitution, were received by the mother of *Reuben Gwynn* (Mr. Webster), a young farmer. The child, *Mary Ryland* (Miss Fortescue), grew up to be beloved by *Reuben*, and, in this position of affairs, the drama commences, *Sir Arthur* having succeeded to his father's estates, and *Reuben* being in the West Indies looking after some of the Foljambe property, leaving *Mary*, true and loving, at home with her mother. *Sir Arthur*, who has constantly watched over his daughter, seeing her beauty, thinks he may turn it to account by getting her to marry some wealthy man, by which means, also, his own fortunes, somewhat impaired, may be improved. At the same time, his pride is hurt at the bare idea of her forming an alliance with a common farmer. For this purpose he breaks the secret of her birth to *Mary*, and, by appealing to her feelings, and painting the inevitable ruin that awaits him if she does not give in to his plans, he succeeds in estranging her from her humble circle. In this selfish scheme he is assisted by his sister, *Lady Charlotte Wiloughby* (Mrs. W. Clifford), his lawyer, *Lichen* (Mr. Rogers), and "a natural man of fashion," *Ducks* (Mr. Buckstone). *Reuben* returns from the West Indies, and is crushed by learning the truth. His entire nature is changed, and he now turns every thought of his soul towards the accomplishment of the keenest revenge on *Sir Arthur*.

A lapse of three years is supposed to occur between the first and second acts; and when the story is again taken up, we find *Mary* has returned from Paris whither she had been sent; and *Reuben* has become comparatively wealthy, by fortunate speculations in a large mercantile house. He has not, however, been earning money for his own future comfort, but merely to assist him in carrying out his plans of revenge. An opportunity arrives: *Harwood*, a young medical man (Mr. Howe), is in love with *Mary*, but his proposals are rejected with scorn by *Sir Arthur*. In despair he resolves to quit England; but before he leaves, he calls on *Reuben*, and requests him to receive a packet he (*Harwood*) is expecting, and, if he finds it contain a small legacy he expects, to forward a check to him for its amount. The parcel arrives, and *Reuben* finds that it contains a claim upon *Sir Arthur Foljambe* for £19,000, due to *Harwood*, by legacy, from the Baronet's estate. And now *Reuben* sees that a mighty power is in his hands. He goes to

Sir Arthur, and tells him that he must have either the money or his daughter. A stormy interview results, and in the end, the proud Baronet is forced to give up his child, seeing only ruin before him if he refuses, for payment of the sum is out of the question. *Reuben* is flushed with his triumph; when the thought comes across him that it is with *Harwood's* money he is accomplishing his wishes. His evil genius is about to drag him still deeper into the vortex of his bad passions, when *Mary* appears once more at his home, and by her earnest and touching appeals to his better feelings, induces him to forgive *Sir Arthur*. But he makes one condition—that the Baronet should give the hand of his niece to *Harwood*. This is done: the bond is returned to the young surgeon; and *Sir Arthur Foljambe* himself joins the hands of *Reuben* and *Mary*. It will be seen from this that the plot is interesting and original; but the dénouement is scarcely satisfactory enough, compared with the general action of the piece. At the same time the design is clever, and we rejoice to find Mr. Bernard giving his attention and talents to this class of dramas.

It was excellently performed. Mr. Webster had the chief part to sustain, and his acting was powerful and impressive. Miss Fortescue's gentle grace came out with great effect in *Mary Ryland*; and the other ladies and gentlemen—Mr. Buckstone especially—played with care and judgment. The piece was liberally applauded, and announced for repetition every evening, by Mr. Webster, with unqualified approbation.

FRENCH PLAYS.

"Bertrand et Raton" has been the great attraction at the ST. JAMES'S Theatre during the past week, and Mr. Mitchell has produced it in admirable style. The cautious, cunning *Bertrand*, could scarcely be better represented than by Perlet, who knows how to give to every word its weight—to every turn its significance. Cariziny, whose broad hearty style is the very reverse of Perlet's cold polish, is excellently fitted for the part of *Raton*; whilst the distinct, strongly-marked enunciation of Madame Grasset brings out his wife with strong effect. We will not say that we like Mademoiselle Brohan so well in the attire of a boy-apprentice as in one of her *soubrettes*, but she gives a nice vivacity to the part of *Jean*, and by persuading her to undertake it, Mr. Mitchell has given a new feature to the piece. In point of costume, the manner in which this admirable comedy has been put upon the stage, is deserving of all commendation. M. Perlet remains after Christmas, but Mademoiselle Brohan will have left London by the time this sheet is in the hands of the reader. Few actresses have made so speedy a good impression upon the audiences of the ST. JAMES'S Theatre as this agreeable and talented lady. Her advent, another season, will be eagerly looked forward to.

THE COLOSSEUM.—The Prince Louis Napoleon Buonaparte, the Turkish Ambassador and suite, and the Prince and Princess Worwloski, visited the Colosseum on Wednesday evening.

MUSIC.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

Owing to the hoarseness of Mr. Harrison, the opera of "The Maid of Artois" was substituted for "The Bondman" on Saturday last. On Monday night, "The Bohemian Girl" was given; and on Tuesday and Wednesday, "The Maid of Artois" was repeated, being the closing nights of Madame Bishop's engagement. This unfortunate withdrawal of Balfe's most successful opera has caused the attendances to be but indifferent until half-price, as Mdle. Fuoco's popularity up to her last appearance remained undiminished. It is a pity that the practice of understanding the leading parts in an opera is not followed at our theatres as in Paris. If Mr. King had been "up" in the character of *Ardenford*, no postponement of "The Bondman" would have been rendered imperative. Mr. King is improving much as a singer, and, with a little more encouragement, would take higher ground. Mr. Rafter is making way rapidly. He sings the music of *Thaïdeus*, in "The Bohemian Girl," in excellent style, having acquired more confidence by his success in "The Bondman." This opera, in fact, may be said to have been the making of Weiss and Rafter as singers and of Harrison as an actor. We may also acknowledge here, that there is a marked improvement in the conducting of Schira. If he would attend more to the sustaining of the voices, his great fault might be remedied. The orchestra has some good materials in the wind instrumentalists, but the stringed ones are very weak.

PRINCESS' THEATRE.

Under the title of "The Seven Maids of Munich, or the Ghost's Tower," the popular composer, Mr. Herbert Rodwell, has produced a very agreeable musical romance, in one act. The *libretto* and the music are from his pen: the former is highly amusing, the latter is pleasing and pretty, although the paternity of the themes may admit of discussion. The overture ought to have been styled, "A Set of Quadrilles." The first scene is in a café near the Lake of Como, with French officers carousing. After a chorus to the glory of La Belle France, Mr. Allen, as *Frederick*, sang a charming lament, "Oh! I could weep from night to morn," and was rapturously encored. Next came a song from Leffier, as *Belle-jambe*, "I will never woo by sighing," of no great merit. The entrance of seven females masked, gives rise to a romance, "You ruined tower," sung by Miss S. Flower, which was demanded a second time. It has a pretty *refrain*, and is nicely instrumented. After the departure of the masked ladies, the officers find that letters have been left for them from the "Seven Maids of Munich," daughters of Baron Bristlebach. Mr. Allen had a second ballad, "I'll still believe in thee"—simple and unaffected. In the second scene Miss S. Flower has a clever air, "The click-clack of the village mill." The "Buff's aria d'entrata" of the diplomatic Baron, who hates the French, and has moved from Munich to Como in the hopes of destroying Napoleon and his chief officers, was indifferently sung by Mr. Walton; but Mr. Rodwell must have been infected with Rossini's reminiscences when he wrote it. *Uriel*, the Maid (Miss Marshall), here ascertains the Baron's plot, by finding a letter from the conspirators. In the third scene, the officers serenade the "Seven Maids" from the lake; but *Cornet Grosdos* (Mr. Compton), who plays the trombone, is nearly drowned by the upsetting of the boat. He is dragged into the Château by the Seven Maids, "more dead than alive," and *Uriel* administers the brandy bottle, which, however, contains a strong dose of opium. The Seven Maids remove him in a chair to the haunted apartment in the ghost's tower, and a very ludicrous scene takes place, when the Cornet awakes to consciousness, finds himself in strange attire, and overhears all the details of the conspiracy to assassinate Napoleon and himself in particular. Compton acted this scene admirably. Finally the Baron, to save his head from the scaffold, is compelled to consent to the union of his seven daughters with the seven French officers; and when the Cornet expects to denounce the conspirators, he is mystified through *Uriel's* agency, by the aspect of the "Seven Maids of Munich." We wish that more one act operettas were written than is the custom at present, instead of having long and dreary three act works. Mr. Rodwell, in his time, has contributed divers attractive melodies for the million. In this instance we think he shines more as an author than as a composer.

CONCERTS.

SACRED CONCERTS.—The second programme on Monday night at Crosby Hall, opened with Dr. Hayes' Anthem, "O, Worship the Lord." This was followed by Neukomm's Duo, "Through the Wide Wilderness," sung by the Misses Steele and Cabitt. Mr. Locker had a heavy air by Curschman, "Mid Wintry Storms." A fine Quartet by Bernardo Sabbatini, "God be Merciful," was well rendered by Misses Rainforth and Bassano, Messrs. Francis and Novello. Mr. J. A. Novello gave Handel's "Honour and Arms" artistically. Miss Steele was encorced in Peyer's Air, "Peace." A beautiful Duo, by Kallewoed. "The Future Bright," was sung by Misses Lockey and Novello. Miss Cubitt gave Handel's "He shall Feed his Flock;" and the first part terminated with one of Haydn's Chorusses. Miss Monsey performed on the organ an Allegro, Andante, and Fugue by Bach; and there were gleanings from Cherubini, Mendelsohn, Otto Nicolai, Arcadelt, Kitcken, and Handel, in the second part. The third Concert will be on January 5.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Handel's Oratorio of "The Messiah" was performed on Wednesday night at Exeter Hall, which was fully attended. The choir singers feel their strength in this sublime work, and it was finely executed, Madame Caradori Allan, Miss Hawes, Mr. Manvers and Mr. Phillips being the principal vocalists.

MUSICAL CHIT-CHAT.

Mr. J. L. Matton gave a Musical Entertainment at the Assembly Room, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Peckham, on Wednesday night; and, in addition to various songs, performed pieces on the piano-forte. Mr. Dempster repeated his Ballad *Soirée* on the same evening, at the Princess' Concert Room. On Tuesday night, Mr. Wilson closed his month's campaign at Crosby Hall. He departs again for the provinces after Christmas. The Cecilian Society performed Handel's "Messiah" at the Albion Hall, Moorgate, on Thursday evening, being the fifty-ninth annual performance of that oratorio by the Society. Miss Rainforth, Miss Thornton, Miss C. Felton, Messrs. Leffier, Shoubridge, Butler, and Turner, were the leading vocalists. Mr. Walker conducted, Mr. Berry was the Leader, and Mr. Peck the Organist. Verdi's opera of "I Due Foscari" has been successfully produced at the Théâtre Italien in Paris; Coletti playing the *Doge*, Mario the Younger, *Foscari*, and Grisi, the wife of the latter. The work is regarded as inferior to the "Nabucco," "Ernani," "Lombardi," &c., by the same composer; but the talents of the artists carried the opera through triumphantly. Grisi was in superb voice, and never acted more efficiently. Rossini's *pasticcio*, "Robert Bruce," after repeated postponements, was to have been produced at the Académie Royale de Musique on Wednesday last. According to a statement in the *Morning Chronicle*, Jenny Lind has signed an engagement for three months at Her Majesty's Theatre, from April next, for ten performances per month, provided her contract with Drury-Lane Theatre be cancelled by Mr. Bunn; but, as the latter insists on her fulfilment, by appearing first on his stage, there appears to be no chance of Jenny Lind's *début* in London next year. She is now in Vienna, where she will remain until the end of February, when she will return to Berlin. Meyerbeer is in the Austrian capital, superintending the production of his "Camp of Silesia" for Jenny Lind, the censorship having made various alterations. He has composed some new pieces for her in this opera, in which she was to have made her *début* at Drury-Lane Theatre. Meyerbeer has generously given up the whole of his year's salary, as Musical Director of the Berlin Opera, to the band and chorus, as he had taken no part in the management, although nominally Director, owing to some misunderstanding with the authorities. The reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg's opera of "Zaire," so triumphantly produced at Gotha, has been transferred to the Coburg stage, with equal success. Berlioz's "Damnation de Faust" was repeated for the second time at the Opéra-Comique, on Sunday last. Fanny Ellsler has been the star of Florence for some time past, and was lately presented with a gold diadem; she is engaged for the Royal Italian Opera, Covent-Garden, next season.

LITERATURE.

PARTNERS FOR LIFE. A CHRISTMAS STORY. By CAMILLA TOULMIN. Orr & Co. This admirable little book is entitled to good position among the fifteen or sixteen "Books for Christmas," which have appeared within the past month. It would scarcely be possible to point to one of these agreeable contributions which possesses a higher domestic interest, by which we mean that peculiar character of incident which is best adapted for the family circle, neither starting with its improbabilities, nor tiring with its sentimentalities, but, in the guise of a pleasant fiction, conveying a sound and useful moral. In this meritorious object, Miss Toulmin has been uniformly successful; and the work now before us must add to her reputation as a sincere and earnest delineator of middle life. The sentiment of this Story is throughout healthy, the principle sound, and the narrative entertaining, without any of those excrescences which are often mistaken for pleasantness: the foibles and weak points of the characters in the tale are not spared, but they are not exposed for a better purpose than mere ridicule.

We must not let our readers into the plot of the story; and shall merely observe that the characters of the Merchants, two of the "Partners," are well drawn; there are delicate portraits of a poor governess, and an invalid boy; and a tender love-t

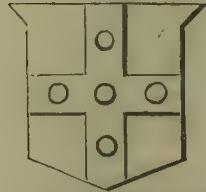
OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

THE LANDGRAVE OF HESSE HOMBURG.

PHILIP AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, Sovereign Landgrave of Hesse Homburg, Field Marshal in the Austrian service, and Governor of the Federal Fortress of Mayence, was the son of the Landgrave Frederick, and the brother of the Landgrave Louis. His Serene Highness Philip was born on the 11th March, 1779, and succeeded his brother Louis the 19th January, 1839. His Serene Highness expired on the 10th instant, at Homburg-es-Monte. He had espoused, the 26th June, 1835, in morganatic, or left-handed wedlock, Antonia, Countess of Naumburg, but is succeeded in his sovereignty by his next brother, Prince Gustavus Adolphus, now reigning Landgrave of Hesse Homburg.

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS GRENVILLE.

THE Right Hon. Thomas



Grenville, whose death has just occurred, at an extremely advanced age, was the elder son of George Grenville, Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1763, and brother of the late William Wyndham, Baron Grenville, First Lord of the Treasury. The Right Hon. Thomas Grenville was also great uncle of the present Duke of Buckingham. He was born the 31st December, 1755. He early in life displayed, like many members of his distinguished family, great intellect and promise; but his after life seems to have been one of flickering eminence, he every now and then coming forward with energy and excellence sufficient to lead him to substantial political power and fame, and then retiring into long and dignified seclusions.

Thus do we view him at divers periods of his life—at one time a graceful and fluent orator in the Commons—the supporter of Fox, and the terror of Pitt; then a diplomatist; afterwards a recluse, devoted to the study of classical literature; then a Member of Parliament, and a diplomatist again; and anon a Minister; lastly, he returns once more to private life, to share in, and to enjoy to the utmost, for nearly forty years, its most refined and rational pleasures. Literature, society, and hospitality, found Thomas Grenville a willing and a delighted votary; and the statesman that might have been, departs this life, after having abandoned worldly honours for, perhaps, the wiser, the more virtuous, and the happier course.

The offices and appointments which Mr. Grenville held may be briefly stated. He was a member of Parliament for many years, and represented there Aldborough, and afterwards Buckingham. He was chosen Plenipotentiary to arrange peace with America; but, a change of Ministry occurring, he did not go. In 1795 he went, as Minister Extraordinary, to the Court at Berlin, and suffered a memorable shipwreck in his voyage thither. In 1800 he was appointed "Chief Justice in Eyre, South of the Trent," a sinecure office, which dies with him. In 1806 he obtained the station of First Lord of the Admiralty; resigning which the following year, he finally retired into a privacy which has only terminated with his death. Mr. Grenville was never married. His demise has occurred in the 90th year of his age.

SIR GEORGE HILARIO BARLOW, BART.

THIS venerable Baronet died a few days since. He was the fourth son of William Barlow, Esq., of Bath, and brother of the late Sir Robert Barlow, a naval officer, distinguished for his gallant capture of the *Africaine*, French frigate. Early in life Sir George went to the East Indies, and eventually became, at the decease of Charles, Marquis Cornwallis, in 1805, Governor-General of India. Two years before he had been created a Baronet, and, in two years after, he was appointed Governor of Fort St. George, Madras. He married, in 1789, Elizabeth, daughter of Burton Smith, Esq., of the county of Westmeath, and by her (from whom he was divorced in 1816) he has left a very large family.

M. DESHAYES.

MONSIEUR DESHAYES, the renowned ballet-master, has died recently at Paris. He was the talented successor of those Terpsichorean men of note, Gordel and Noverre. If ballets be graceful and pleasant spectacles—and who can deny it?—M. Deshayes deserves a tribute of regret at his departure, for he was the inventor of some of the prettiest ballets of the present age, to wit, among others, of the famed one of "Benyosky." The proximate cause of poor Deshayes' death was singular. Returning home, while in London, from a jovial dinner, where Taglion and Cerito were among the guests, he fell into a pit, and from the injuries he then sustained, he never afterwards recovered.

THE REV. JAMES M'TEAR.

MR. M'TEAR, a well-known clergyman, politician, and public speaker in Glasgow, was a native of Ireland, and came to Glasgow with his father, immediately after the Irish Rebellion, and when he was about nineteen years of age. Having received a good education, he commenced teaching, and proved very successful in that profession; but his inclinations were strong to the ministry of the Gospel, a preacher of which he became in connection with the Relief Synod. While studying divinity at the University, an event affected to a considerable degree his prospects as a clergyman in the west of Scotland. He had been accustomed, while a teacher, to let his class-room to friendly and other societies. Under the Castlereagh Administration, one of these societies was suspected of meeting for seditious purposes; and Mr. M'Tear was apprehended and committed to prison. Though liberated in a few days, without a trial, the fact of his having been imprisoned caused him to be regarded with suspicion in some country churches in this quarter. But his character was vindicated at the time in public advertisements by the Professors of the University, by his fellow-students, by ministers of all denominations, and by a defence by Henry (now Lord) Brougham in the House of Commons. On account of his increasing family, Mr. M'Tear resumed his profession as a teacher in Glasgow; and, though continuing to preach occasionally, he prosecuted the occupation of instruction with much success for several years, but retired from it when the advance of age impaired his activity. He died in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

PRINCIPAL NAVAL AIDE-DE-CAMP TO THE QUEEN.—The appointment of Principal Aide-de-Camp to her Majesty, vacant by the decease of Admiral Lord Amelius Beaufort, have been conferred on Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, Bart., G.C.B., at present in command of the Channel squadron, and commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean station.

THE PENINSULAR MEDAL.—It is expected that the honorary medal to be conferred on the Peninsular officers will be extended to all British officers engaged in the last general war, including the arduous contest in America, where so much intrepidity and gallantry were displayed by a comparatively small arm of our troops. The following officers who shared in the glory and peril of the Peninsular war, and for which they will receive a medal decoration, are quartered in this garrison:—Colonel Mansel, Colonel Cator, Lieutenant-Colonel Cox, Lieutenant-Colonel Grierson, R.E., Major O'Leary, 55th. On half-pay in this city:—Colonel G. Mansel, 3rd Dragoon Guards, who served for six years in the Peninsular; Lieutenant-Colonel Lloyd Hodges, 61st; Captain Welsh, 5th; Captain Rose, 32nd; Lieutenant Evans, 38th.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.—A letter from Madras, written by a soldier in the 15th Hussars, to his father in Dredge, states that the health of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Walter Scott is in a most precarious state. His medical attendants have ordered him to Europe, yet they are afraid to move him, lest he should expire before embarkation. The expected demise of this generous officer and accomplished gentleman has caused a general gloom through the presidency.

IMPROVED DISCIPLINE OF THE ARMY.—The *Daily News* states that the Government is about to provide for the better training and management of the army, on a plan originated by Earl Grey, when he was at the head of the War Office. The intention is to put at once in force the law limiting the service to ten years, and to release all the soldiers who have served that term, adopting towards them similar arrangements with those adopted towards the pensioners. Like the pensioners, they are to be enrolled at their place of abode, and be subject to be called out for exercise or for service. This may take place once a year, and each reserve or retired soldier will receive two shillings a day whilst thus engaged.

CHURCH PREFERENCE.—The Right Hon. Lord Ward has presented the Rev. Charles Girdlestone, M.A., to the valuable rectory of Kingswinford, Staffordshire, void by the death of Dr. Penfold.

EPITOME OF NEWS.—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The electric telegraph on the Midland Railway has been opened for the use of the public.

The statue of Mrs. Siddons is to be erected in Westminster Abbey. There is talk of moving the statue of John Philip Kemble (Flaxman's last work) from its present position in the north transept of the Abbey, to some spot in the same building where it can be seen by the side of the newly completed statue of Mrs. Siddons.

A letter from Homburg-es-Mont announces the death of the Landgrave Philip of Hesse-Homburg, the reigning Prince, aged 69. He had promised his subjects a constitution, but died without carrying out his intentions. He bore the rank of Field-Marshal in the Austrian service. He is succeeded by a younger brother, Prince Augustus Adolphus Frederick, born in 1781.

The Judges have at length declared their decision, as Visitors of the Inns of Court, on the Inner Temple Bench question. It is, that Queen's Counsel have no legal right to the office of bENCHER, but that the mode of election pursued at the Inner Temple is improper, and ought to be abolished.

On the 12th inst., during a heavy fall of snow at St. Omer, there was a thunder-storm with strong flashes of lightning.

A line of telegraphs is about to be established along the coast of the Adriatic, between Venice and Trieste. The distance is 26 German miles, or about 119 English, and there will be 22 stations, the expense of which is estimated at 28,000 florins (£2800).

Sydney papers have arrived of the 19th August, from which we learn that an outbreak had taken place among the prisoners at Norfolk Island, which was not put down until four police officers were killed.

Letters from Italy announce that the union of Cracow to Austria has produced a very lively impression throughout the whole Peninsula, and appears to have aroused with new energy all the former sentiments of dislike and distrust of the Austrians. These sentiments have manifested themselves in a bolder and more significant manner than on any previous occasion.

Count Frederick Gonfalonieri, chief of the Milanese conspiracy against Austria in 1821, who was subsequently confined during 17 years within the fortress of Spielberg, in Moravia, died at Hosenthal, in the canton of Uri, on the 10th inst.

Herrings caught at Brighton in the morning are sold in the Midland Counties in the afternoon. This arises from the facilities of transit by the London and Brighton and London and North Western Railway; and such has been the effect in the reduction of prices, that the finest quality can now be had at the rate of from twenty to twenty-five for a shilling, being a reduction of nearly two hundred per cent.

Her Majesty has granted a pension of £50 a year to Margaret Turnbull, widow of the late James Turnbull, in consequence of the literary merits of her brother, the late Dr. Leyden; and a pension of £50 a year to Mrs. Fanny Gurwood, in consequence of the literary merits of her husband, the late Colonel Gurwood.

The *Gazette Official* of Rio de Janeiro has been received to the 2nd of November. The Exchange had improved to 284, and the Home Stock Six per Cent to 83. Coffee was in good demand, but that for sugar was rather slack.

Monte Video the date was to the 20th October, but all was in *status quo*. An attempt to check the slave trade had been made by the Government, and an alteration in the rate of postage on foreign periodicals had been decreed, reducing it to 4d each on those printed in countries which did not charge more on those printed in Brazil.

The Bey of Tunis has offered to Louis Philippe the celebrated Cleopatra's needle; the gift has been accepted, and will be conveyed to Paris, and placed in the centre of the Carrousel.

Accounts from Port-au-Prince, to the 22d of November, announce the opening of the Senate on the 15th of that month. President Riché, in his address, pledges himself to a strict adherence to the principles of the Constitution of 1816, and to the maintenance of peace and good government.

"A lot of railway scrip shares," says the *Limerick Chronicle*, "bought in this city last week, were sent off to London for sale at the Stock Exchange, whence they were returned, marked 'forgeries.'

The venerable member for East Somerset, Colonel Gore Langton, entered on his 89th year last Saturday.

We learn from an Antwerp journal that the late frost occasioned many serious accidents in that city. In five days not less than 56 persons were taken to the hospitals in consequence of severe falls in the streets from the slippery state of the pavement.

The French papers mention an instance of shipwreck caused by fair weather. When the sea is agitated, it always breaks on the rocks lying at the mouth of the Charente, and sailors can thus avoid them. But one night lately the sea was so calm that, by the light of the moon, no symptom of peril could be perceived, and the English brig the *Ana*, proceeding from England to Charente, came right on the rocks and was wrecked. Fortunately the crew escaped.

A letter from Naples says:—"The two bronze horses sent by the Emperor of Russia to the King of Naples were inaugurated on the 5th inst., being placed near one of the entrances to the Palace, looking on the King's garden. The open space on which they stand is called Place Nicholas I. An immense crowd was present at the ceremony." The letter adds that the heat at Naples on the 6th was almost insupportable.

Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte intends, it is understood, to fix his permanent residence in this country.

It appears that Dr. Liszt, the founder of the Zollverein, whose death we mentioned last week, committed suicide with a pistol. Letters found upon him proved that he had long nourished the idea of suicide, and a violent flowing of blood to the head irresistibly drew him on to the desperate resolution. He recommended his family to the care of his friends. His affairs, however, are in excellent order. He was 54 years of age."

Several deaths are reported to have occurred from want, in Belgium. The *Journal de Gand*, of the 19th inst., states that on that day a band, consisting of fifteen individuals, attacked the bakers' shops in that city, and plundered them of all their bread. Two of these individuals were arrested and lodged in prison.

A letter from Vienna states that Count de Flahaut had handed to the Austrian Government the note relative to the occupation of Cracow. The three Powers proposed to address, during the present month, a second declaration in justification of their conduct, to the French and English Cabinets.

The *Augsburg Gazette*, of the 17th, contains accounts from Constantinople, which represent Persia to be making warlike preparations on a large scale. The Shah had assembled an army of 25,000 men at Teheran, which he had placed under the command of his eldest son. It is surmised that these preparations are making with a view to an attack on the Turkish provinces, an enterprise rendered apparently easy by the disturbances in Kurdistan, which have caused great embarrassment to the Ottoman Porte.

Prince Victor de Rohan-Guéméné, Duke de Montbazon, expired on the 10th inst., at the château of Sichrow, in Bohemia, in the 81st year of his age.

The Poor-Law Commissioners have appointed Anewrin Owen, Esq., of Erynn, Denbighshire, one of the Assistant Tithe Commissioners, to be an Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner, in the place of the late Col. Wade.

The number of persons who passed to and from France *via* Boulogne, during the week ending last Sunday was, 647, and by Calais 311. The numbers in the corresponding week of last year were, Boulogne, 886, and Calais 210.

The price of wheat has again risen at Brussels, and this circumstance excites the murmurs of the lower classes. The rise in the price of wheat in Brussels market during the last two weeks was only 20 centimes per half hectolitre ending Friday, December 11, and the following day's bread rose 1 centime per kilogramme. On Friday, the 18th December, there was a rise of 29 centimes per half hectolitre on wheat, and a fall of 17 centimes on rye. Bread rose again one centime. The price of bread of the third quality is now 40 centimes per kilogramme at Brussels. This is as dear as in the scarcity of 1816.

The telegraph from the South-Western Railway has been laid down as far as Waterloo-bridge; and upon reaching that point, its course was changed from the west to the eastern side of the bridge, crossing the Waterloo-road close to the gates of the bridge on that side.

Giacomo Tommasino, the leader of the counter-irritants system, died at Parma, on the 26th of November last, at the age of sixty-eight years.

We have already mentioned the failure of the house of Schiller and Co., of Breslau. We now learn from Dresden that M. Schiller, the chief of the house, attempted a few days ago to commit suicide in a bath in that city, by opening the veins of his arms. He was found alive, and removed to an hospital, but in such a state of exhaustion that little hope was entertained of his recovery. M. Schiller had a fortune of 2,000,000 francs from his father, which, by long industry, he had tripled; but latterly he had speculated extensively in railroad shares and other securities, and lost so much that the amount to be divided among the creditors of the house is estimated at only about £16,000.

The execution of the railway from Konigsburg to Berlin, at the cost of the State, is definitely determined on, and the works are to be commenced early in the spring. What has hastened this decision is the intention of the Russian Government to have a railway line constructed from the interior of Russia to the frontier.

A letter from Alexandria, of the 20th ult., says:—"It is reported that Mehemet Ali has manifested a desire to establish a railroad from Suez to Cairo. There is a talk of undertaking some works for the improvement of the navigation of the Nile in Nubia. It is said that at the end of next month 20,000 workmen will be employed on this enterprise."

Advices received from Mulgrave Island, dated August 8, announce the total loss of the French corvette *La Seine*, 20 guns, which took place on the night of the 4th July, on a sunken reef of rocks, near Balade, on the coast of New Caledonia. Fortunately the boats were preserved, by which the whole of the crew and officers, amounting in all to nearly 200 persons, were saved.

Government have appointed an experienced engineer, thoroughly versed in the system of mining peculiar to South Staffordshire, who will immediately visit that district, with a view to the adoption of means for preventing the lamentable loss of life which annually takes place in working the iron and coal mines in the neighbourhood.

A Liverpool journal speaks of a rumour that the Government have it in contemplation to discontinue their present sailing packet establishment, and to avail themselves of the renewed tender, made by the West India Royal Mail Company, for the conveyance of the South American mails and passengers to Barbadoes, and for their transmission thence to Brazil by branch steamers.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

OXFORD.

Dec. 21.

CHRIST CHURCH.—The Lord Bishop of Oxford has appointed the Rev. Dr. Adams, vicar of Bampton, to be Rural Dean of the Deanery of Witney.

THIRD CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.—The Third Centenary of the Royal Foundation of Trinity College was celebrated on Tuesday with unusual magnificence. The proceedings commenced at ten o'clock p.m., by the recital of the Prize Essays, in the Dining Hall of the College, and the distribution of prizes to the prizemans. The Master presided, and there were present most of the noble and distinguished guests who had been invited to take part in the festival. The Commemoration Service in the Chapel commenced with the chanting by the choir of three Psalms, selected appropriately for the occasion, viz., Psalms 145, 146, and 147. The 44th Chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes was next read as the lesson of the day, which being ended, the Rev. James Amiraux Jerome, M.A., proceeded to deliver the Commemoration Sermon or Oration. The choir then sang Purcell's celebrated anthem, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord." The rev. the Master and the visitors retired from the Chapel, the Hallelujah Chorus being executed as a voluntary by the organist.

OPENING OF THE LANCASTER AND CARLISLE RAILWAY.

ARTHORTON, in our Journal of last week, we recorded the opening of this important line of Railway, we are induced, by the picturesque attractions of the country through which it passes, as well as by the very interesting character of the engineering works in its construction, to illustrate further the great event of Tuesday, and the scenery of the route.

The new Station, whence the train started, is situated at the northern terminus of the Lancaster and Preston Railway, about half a mile from the old Lancaster Station. It is built of fine white freestone, and is a very neat structure.

The first work of interest upon the Line is the Viaduct over the Lune, which is about a mile and a half from Lancaster. This light and elegant bridge consists of seven land arches of brick at the south end, followed by three beautiful laminated timber arches, of one hundred and twenty feet span each, succeeded by a land arch for the public road on the north. Owing to its great elevation above the river, it forms a prominent object from many points of view in the vicinity of Lancaster, and adds another to the various works of art which previously adorned that town.

From the Lune Bridge, the Line proceeds towards the shore of Morecambe Bay, the Hest Bank Station being the next stopping place. There the lover of scenery is delighted by the magnificent view that presents itself for a considerable distance. The Bay of Morecambe stretches before him like an extensive lake; Black Combe, Coniston Old Man, and other adjacent hills in the distance, forming the background of a most beautiful picture. This fine range of hills was thickly covered with snow, and presented a singularly beautiful appearance, as viewed through the clear atmosphere.

Hest Bank was speedily reached; it is a watering-place, to which access has hitherto been afforded by the Lancaster and Kendal Canal.

After crossing the river Keer

OPENING OF THE LANCASTER AND CARLISLE RAILWAY.



BRIDGE OVER THE LUNE, FROM THE CHURCHYARD, LANCASTER.

Leaving the summit, we enter a cutting through limestone rock, and before it approaches Shap Village, the Line runs through a circle of large boulder stones, said to be the inner circle of an ancient Druidical Temple.

The Line now proceeds on the east side of the town of Shap, along a heavy cutting through limestone rock, and passing under an elegant skew-bridge, erected at an angle of 45°.

The Line next descends along the flat portion of the Line called Shap Mines; and following the valley of the stream, the Line again runs under the turnpike-road; and thence passing Thrimby, through a thick plantation.

Here the character of the scenery is considerably altered—the bare, rugged, and sterile mountains being succeeded by fertile pastures and picturesque prospects.

The Kendal turnpike-road is crossed for the last time, by a skew-bridge at Clifton, near the entrance to Lowther Park, in which, hidden by a forest of huge oaks, stands Lowther Castle, the seat of the Earl of Lonsdale.

The scenery between Shap and Clifton is very attractive—Cross Fell, Saddleback, Skiddaw, and the other hills in the Lake District, appearing to great advantage.

We are now carried along the Lowther Embankment, and about 50 miles from Lancaster and 20 miles from Carlisle we cross the river Lowther on a magnificent viaduct, 100 feet above the stream. Its arches, six in number, are of 60 feet span each; its total length, 500 feet. It is the largest and one of the most beautiful objects of art on the Line.

A mile and a half from the Lowther Viaduct, the Line crosses the Eamont on a viaduct of great beauty, consisting of five semi-circular arches of 50 feet span each. Its height is 70 feet, and its extreme length upwards of 300 feet.

Westmoreland is now left in the rear, and we enter "Canny Cumberland,"—the two counties being divided by the stream which we have just crossed. We immediately enter a large cutting, containing 180,000 cubic yards, and the Line then runs nearly level to the town of Penrith: the station closely adjoining ruins of the ancient Castle.

From Penrith, the Line enters the valley of the Petteril, through which it pursues almost a direct course to Carlisle, joining the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway at the London-road Station, where the line is 36 feet above the level at Morecambe Bay, and 852 feet below the Shap summit.

Besides the principal viaducts enumerated, the works on the Line comprise 15

turnpike-road bridges, 64 occupation-road bridges, 86 occupation bridges, 47 cattle creeps, and 60 level crossings.

We have abridged this outline from the *Carlisle Journal*. We add a few engineering details:—

Total quantity of gunpowder used upon the works—4133 barrels, of 100 lbs each, or 184 tons.

Coils of fuse, 61,841 length of fuse used, about 416 miles.

On the Kendal district alone (five miles) the holes drilled for blasting amount to 41 miles.

Number of nights worked, 152,147.

Horse night work, 10,500.

Rock, 844,000 cubic yards. Independent of this rock, there has been at least 400,000 cubic yards of sand requiring blasting, making the rock work nearly one-seventh of the whole excavation.

Greatest number of men employed upon the works, 9,615.

Greatest number of horses employed upon the works, 790.

The number of days' work executed on the Line is equivalent to the work of three millions of men for one day.

The excavations average nearly 100,000 yards per mile.

Making deductions for the time lost by the men, and the unusually wet country through which the Line passes, the working time in which the Line has been completed is fifteen months.

THE CONTRACTORS' DINNER.

We have engraved one of the festal commemorations of the Opening of the Railway—viz., the sumptuous Dinner given by the Contractors, Messrs. Stephenson, Mackenzie, and Co. The entertainment took place in the Assembly Room of the Crown and Mitre Inn and Coffee House. This beautiful apartment was elaborately embellished for the occasion. At the upper end of the room, behind the President's chair, was displayed a mantle of white silk, emblazoned with the Royal arms, and arched with laurel and flowers. On each side appeared an illumination, the initials "V. A." and surmounted by the order of the Star and Garter, within wreaths of evergreen. Against the wall, at the lower end of the room, was displayed an elegant flag, emblazoned with the incorporated arms of the towns of Lancaster and Carlisle, typical of the union of these two important towns by railway. Against the walls, on each side, were ranged silk flags bearing the titles of all the Railways for which Messrs. Stephenson, Mackenzie, and Brassey are Contractors, about a dozen in number, and constituting in the aggregate upwards of 800 miles of railway communication. In addition to these decorations, appeared a number of other devices, illuminated by Royal crowns, stars, &c.; wreaths of evergreens gemmed with roses, and inclosing loyal and other mottoes. With the lustre of the illuminations, aided by the light of three chan-

deliers depending from the ceiling, the room presented a most brilliant appearance. The dinner, supplied by Mr. Jarman and Mrs. Wells, host and hostess of the hotel, was of the most costly description.

The dessert, wines, &c., were excellent. Mr. Scarisbrick, the celebrated organist of Kendal, presided at the pianoforte. The chair was occupied by John Stephenson, Esq.; G. Mould, Esq., officiating as Vice.

The number of guests exceeded 200, comprising not only the heads of the various departments engaged in the construction of the Railway, from the resident engineers and contractors downwards, but a considerable number of influential strangers interested in other lines, and many representatives of the trade of Carlisle, Kendal, Lancaster, Preston, &c.

At the lower end of the room was an orchestra, occupied by an instrumental band from Cobden's establishment, Cross Hall, near Chorley, and also by a party of glee singers, chiefly from Preston, conducted by Mr. Edward Scarisbrick, of Carlisle.

We regret that we have not space to report the very interesting after-dinner proceedings. After the customary loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the healths of the Chairman and Directors, the Engineers-in-Chief, the Secretary, and the Resident Engineers, of the Railway Company were drunk with great applause; and the toast of "Messrs. John Stephenson and Co." was received with immense cheering.

Mr. Stephenson's reply modestly glanced at the difficulties which he had overcome in the construction of the Railway. He concluded by observing it was consoling and satisfactory to mark the progress of science, and he trusted that the time would come, and that ere long, when passengers could travel right through to Forfar. (Cheers.) The communication by iron rails between England and Scotland would be a great benefit to both countries; and, as an humble individual, he felt proud to have been the means of amalgamating both sides of the Sark by the Trunk Line, part of which had yesterday been opened. (Cheers.) He could only say he felt obliged for the kindness of the Company, in speaking of him and his partners as they had done. He only regretted he could not reply adequately to their compliments, for he would repeat that he would rather make a railway than a speech any day. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Mould, Mr. Horn, and other speakers, in their addresses, entered into the details of the great work; so that the day's proceedings were stored with a vast amount of practical information, instead of the complimentary common-place which usually characterises post-prandial eloquence.



THE RAILWAY CONTRACTORS' DINNER, AT THE CROWN AND MITRE INN, CARLISLE.



PACKHORSE BRIDGE OVER THE LUNE.—BORROW BRIDGE, THE RAILWAY IN THE DISTANCE.



CLEMENCY, MRS. KEELEY.

SCENE FROM "THE BATTLE OF LIFE," AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

This theatre opened for the winter season on Monday evening last, when the version of Mr. Dickens's last Christmas book, "The Battle of Life," dramatised by Mr. Albert Smith, was played for the first time, one clear day only having elapsed between the publication of the story and the production of the drama.

The plot has, without doubt, by this time been made known to many hundreds of our readers; and, as the incidents are closely followed, there is no occasion to repeat them here. Such alterations only were made in the manner of developing the story as were necessary for the exigencies of the stage; and the result was a most unqualified success. For this, however, be it understood, the author and dramatist were mainly indebted to the unequalled acting of Mrs. Keeley as *Clemency Newcome*, to which we shall allude presently. Otherwise the piece was somewhat wearisome; and once or twice hung in a very dangerous manner between success and condemnation, although the large audience had evidently come predisposed in its favour.

The reason of this dulness was that it was impossible to excite any interest for the two sisters on the stage. As long as *Clemency* and *Britain* were in the scene, everything moved fast enough, but no sooner did *Marion* and *Grace* commence their sentimentality than the audience got listless and inattentive; and now and then that restless cough was heard, which sometimes preludes sounds little more unpleasant. The exquisite pathos of Mrs. Keeley in the third act, however, "pulled everything up," to use a theatrical term, and the curtain finally descended amidst an uproar of applause, which continued for several minutes.

The piece was nicely played throughout, Dr. Jeddler being sustained by Mr. Frank Mathews, with extreme care; and Alfred Heathfield by Mr. Leigh Murray, who has been added to the Lyceum company, and whose intelligent, gentlemanly performance deserved all the commendation awarded to it. Messrs. Snitchey and Craggs, the lawyers, found two able representatives in Mr. Meadows and Mr.

Turner; and Benjamin Britain was admirably played by Mr. Keeley, for whom the character seems to have been almost written. His bewilderment and confusion, during the signing of the contract, in the first act, was imitable. Mr. F. Vining was the Michael Warden.

The two sisters, *Grace* and *Marion*, were played by Miss Daly and Miss May. The former lady was warmly cheered for her clever acting in the third act, when *Marion* returns; and the latter—an actress new to these boards—promises to become an acquisition to the company, when she can speak a little louder. At times, on Monday evening, she was almost inaudible. Mrs. Snitchey was properly interpreted by Mrs. Woolridge. But to Mrs. Keeley's *Clemency Newcome*, all praise, as we have hinted, is due. Never was a character more exquisitely worked out. Her very appearance—awkward, ungainly, but still clean and tidy—was a picture; and her acting has, in our opinion, exceeded anything she has done for years: in the "Nutmeg-Grater Inn" scene, it was certainly beyond her well-recollected explanation of her conduct as *Dot Peerybingle*, last year; and that is no poor compliment. There is no actress on the stage who will be able to come near her in this part, should the piece be played at any other house.

The piece was very nicely put on the stage. In the absence of any available points in the illustrations of the book, the artists of the theatre were left to their own suggestions; and some effective scenery was the result. A clever change, from the ball-room to the winter landscape, with the snow falling heavily, was an excellent piece of theatrical mechanism, and worked without a "hitch." The dresses were in good taste.

At the fall of the curtain, there were loud calls for the principal performers, who passed, hand in hand, across the stage. Then a cry was set up for Mr. Dickens, who was not in the house; and then another for Mr. Albert Smith, who was led forward by Mrs. Keeley, and left by her at the footlights, to bow his acknowledgments to the audience.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

EVERY BODY'S COLUMN.
BY ALBERT SMITH.

mortals are certainly a much faster race than we were in the time of Edipus. We learn, from clever books on classical subjects, that the Sphynx was sent by Juno to afflict the Thebans by proposing enigmatical questions to them; and that it went badly with those who could not enter fully into those enigmas. There are a great many Sphynxes who afflict us at the present day by wishing to smart things, perfectly incomprehensible. But this by the way.

The Sphynx would not have made any great sensation at the present day; for, where he invented one riddle, people now put forth thousand: and his crack enigma about which the ancients made such a fuss, and thought the aforesaid Edipus such a card for answering, was a very slow affair: at the present day, every pocket-book publisher in Egypt would have refused it. The enigma is universally known. It was, "What animal is that, that goes on four legs in the morning, two at noon, and three at night?" We are informed by Mr. Widdicombe—who was at that time Master of the Horse to Sesostris—that he was very nearly letting himself in for it, by saying that it was a trained horse, who went on four legs in the stable in the morning; two in the rehearsal at noon; and three on the stage, having one wounded by the dragon, at night. Edipus, however, luckily stepped in before him, and gave the answer; which all the world knows to be "Man." Mr. Widdicombe speaks of Edipus as an intelligent man an excellent singer of funny songs, and an inordinate lover of pale ale.

We propose to put out the Sphynx for good, by offering several enigmatical diversions to our readers for Christmas. Some of them are our own; some we have borrowed; and the remainder have been stolen wherever we could lay hands on them. We have purposely omitted the answers, which will be given next week.

CHARADE

Attributed to Sir Walter Scott; and to which, it may be as well to state, to save some of our readers from going mad from over-puzzling their brains, there is not supposed to be any answer. If there is, we shall be happy to receive it.

Sir Hylary fought at Agincourt;
Sooth! 'twas an awful day!
And though, in that rude time of sport,
The followers of the camp and court
Had little time to pray.
'Tis said Sir Hylary mutter'd there
Two syllables by way of prayer.

My FIRST to all the brave and proud,
Who see to-morrow's sun;
My NEXT, with her cold quiet cloud,
To those who win their dewy shroud
Before the fight is done;
And my WHOLE to her, whose bright
blue eyes
Weep when a warrior nobly dies.



What circumstance in English history does this sketch pourtray?

REBUS OF THE CHIVALRIC AGES.
What ceremony in a tournament does this cut remind one of?



ETHIOPIAN CONUNDRUM.
Tambourine. Now, Bones, you berry cute. Spose him favrite duck go to sleep on Wenham Lake, in de hard frost, and get fixed dere in de ice. What poem ob Lord Byrum's him like?

Bones. Don't know dat.
Tambo. Will you gib him up?
Bones. No.
Tambo. Will you guess him?
Bones. No.
Tambo. Well, what will you do?
Bones. Gib him up.
Tambo. Den, you aggravating nigger, what is it?

THEATRICAL CONUNDRUM.
Why would it have been very singular if Mademoiselle Fuoco, the *dansseuse*, had been an English girl, for her to have created any sensation?

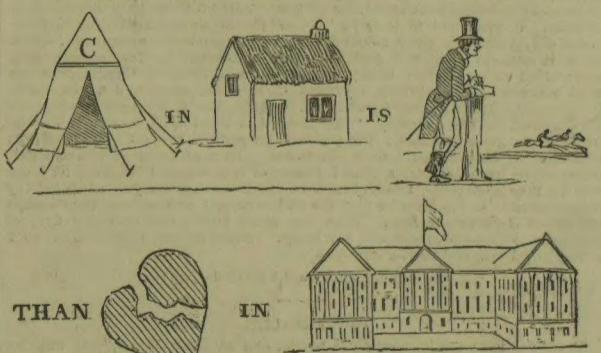
What permanent mercantile situation does this hapless "wreck ashore" o Dundrum Bay now represent?



MORE CONUNDRUMS,

Calculated to move the masses to reflection.
Why were oysters unusually scarce during the late cold weather?
What animals are those which, when beheaded, horses are remarkably fond of?
Why is a sharp razor exactly like a blunt one?
Why are two mercantile houses entirely dependent on each other like day and night?
Why was Othello so much darker than he is usually represented to be?

A MORAL OBSERVATION,
Intended to put people into good humour with their lot, at Christmas.



By our new arrangements for bringing out THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS, which combine the application of Mr. Little's Improved No-end-of-impression-in-a-moment Steam Press, with the electric telegraph, we shall shortly be enabled to anticipate every event of importance. At present, we give a view of the spectacle our office will present on Monday, as soon as this number has been seen, and its attractions made known and appreciated. The crowd also includes many ingenious correspondents bringing their answers to the above riddles.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

This is the season, in Paris, the most propitious for the production of novelties of every description, and those of the toilette are never behind hand amongst our tasteful neighbours. The winter gaieties, now beginning in right earnest, give occasion for the display of evening costumes of every description, from the dinner dress to the *Toilette de Bal*.

The entertainment given by M. Guizot, in honour of the Bey of Tunis, presented a *coup d'œil* of such brilliancy as might charm even eyes accustomed to Eastern splendour. The costumes of the ladies were many of them truly magnificent. Dresses of moire Gothicque, of rich damask, of satiné velvet, of silk, brocaded in gold and silver, or shot, in a thousand different colours, to which the large spreading patterns now in vogue gave a double richness of effect—were to be seen on all sides; and, accompanying these, were head-dresses and tiaras sparkling with diamonds, not unfrequently mixed with flowers.

On the ball-dresses of young ladies, flowers are now employed in abundance while wreaths or bouquets for the head are still in the highest vogue.

For the head-dress of a married lady, or a chaperone, blonde is again much worn, and, certainly, nothing can be more becoming to the face than its light transparent texture. It is often employed without the admixture of any other ornament, and is also much worn in barbes, or combined with gold and silver; sometimes even with velvet and flowers.

Many new ball dresses are now preparing either in crape or in white tulle, with two skirts over a white satin slip. These skirts have each a hem; and, above each hem, there is a wreath of flowers, either embroidered on the muslin or artificial; the leaves of the latter are shining, and interspersed with gold net-work. The bodice is made plain, with a point and a double round berthe, which is gracefully looped up at the shoulders with bows (meands) of white satin ribbon, brocaded in gold, and terminating in long aiguillettes of gold. The sleeves are made very small. A wreath of the same flowers as those on the dress must be worn in the hair.

Another very favourite novelty is a white crape dress, with an underskirt of white moire, having a pointed bodice with folds à la Grecque. This dress may be trimmed with bows and bands of ponesca velvet; this is rather a striking mixture, but one that is much admired. With this, must be worn a headress of peacock eglantine flowers, mixed with gold and silver daisies.

We will conclude this review of ball costumes with the description of a pink tulle dress, composed of five skirts, each skirt being bordered by a garland of pink clochettes, with green leaves. The flowers and leaves are graduated, so that on the last skirt they are complete minatures.

The little caps now worn are charming, from the grace which they impart to the physiognomy. They are made in blond and flowers, and those intended for occasions of more ceremony are ornamented with small feathers; but these must be twisted and placed with much care, and must have the air which the hand of an experienced modiste alone can give them.

A new and successful style of cap is the Bonnet Marron Lescant. The foundation is in point d'Alemon, and a quilling of pink satin ribbon surrounds it like a wreath. Below the quilling is a border of the same lace, fluted. This cap is worn on the top of the head with a large full-blown rose placed on the right side.

As we have before said, the different styles of dresses, as well as of bonnets and head-dresses, are so numerous, and so varied from day to day, above all at the beginning of the season, that it would be useless to attempt to describe them all, the more so as all our fair readers know well that what looks charmingly on a lady with a slight clancée figure, would lose all its attractions did the wearer boast a greater degree of embonpoint; and the same remark may be applied to differences of complexion, of height, and of age. In general, however, morning and visiting dresses are made quite tight, opening at the waist with small basques simply brought into a point; some are made quite high, others again opening en revers, which may be either pointed or round. Cloaks and mantles are still made in velvet, and as the season advances, for trimmings are more and more in request. Bonnets are frequently ornamented with feathers, and preserve the form we described in our last bulletin of fashions.

The costumes which we now anticipatorily present to our readers, will not appear until to-morrow at Paris, in the beautiful journal *Les Modes Parisiennes*. They are two exquisite Costumes de Promenade. The first consists of a robe of satin, *couleur de bois*, with black velvet figuring. The bonnet is worn with a short veil, and a small rose: gloves, straw colour: cachemire shawl, white or bright red. The robe of the other dress is green silk shot with blue, trimmed with imitation lace. The bonnet is of velvet, *couleur raisin de Corinthe*, with feathers and ribbons of apple-green; gloves, delicate lilac.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY GAMES.

When time comes round, a Christmas box they bear,
And one day makes them rich for all the year.—GAY.

All popular ceremonials, most probably, had their origin in those rude rites and superstitions which were the precursors of religious observances, and are still found among those savage tribes upon whom the sun of civilisation has not risen. How our ancestors managed to amuse themselves before the arrival of the Romans is somewhat obscure, indeed; but that they were no "carpet knights" is pretty certain, and it has been fairly assumed that our national athletic exercises, such as hurling and wrestling, may be taken as impressions from early types in favour among those naked cavaliers from whom Prince Vortigern is said to have won his "painted vest." When the Saxons came, they brought with them their games and pastimes, and are believed to have introduced chess, skating, and the use of the oar. Some claim these honours for the Normans; but most likely the attendants of William brought with them the subtleties of woodcraft only. That Monarch was the founder of game-laws, at all events, for whatever other game contrivances we may be his debtors. Then followed jousts and tournaments—the former a *duello*, or performed by two persons; the latter a *regular* row, in which a crowd was wont to fall to—"pell mell." Martial exercises, of course, were the fashion of this epoch, in which the sons of nobles, gentle, and yeomen all participated. These sports were held in especial esteem by the ladies—

Whose eyes
Rained influence, and adjudged the prize.

At the close of the Middle Ages, chivalry began to decline, and violent exertion to be considered vulgar. The consequence was a taste for gambling—also peculiar to savage life hatching into a state of civilisation. James the First wrote a book, called "A King's Duty towards God," and addressed it to his eldest son, in which he states foot-ball to be heterodox, and all pastimes practised on horseback eminently *comme il faut*—an opinion with the latter part of which we entirely coincide. In the seventeenth century, play had become excessive, and gentlemen wasted their substance on cock-fights; while the popular character partook unmanly of the spirit of the public recreations of the times—bullock-running, bear-baiting, and the like. About this period, we read that the citizens of London took their recreations liberally, at all manner of sports, "besides drinking," including "hunting with the Lord Mayor's pack of dogs when the common hunt goes out." In the reign of Charles the Second, our island appears well to have merited the title of "Merry England." All sorts of pastimes were rife, and the shows of the metropolis were the most gorgeous pageants that can be conceived. Still one is not content with the pictures of these revels drawn by Chaucer and similar faithful historians. The matter, too, often consisted of Heathen mythology and Christian divinity, mixed up very indecently, not to say profanely. Towards the end of the last century, Lord Mayor's Day used to present mummeries of the most unseemly kind; some of them too gross for allusion.

Elizabeth's visit to Kenilworth introduced a new era. Leicester provided a poetical reception for his Sovereign—and no doubt set the fashion for succeeding fêtes of the same description. But Christmas was destined to be the especial feast of holiday games: the occasion for jocund festivities—as it remains at this day. Although not without its "Lord of Misrule," this festival of good fellowship, the eternal memorial of "peace and good will among men," seems early to have rescued public revelry and merry-making from objectionable disorder. It was wont to have its "King" for the nonce—even the grave inmates of Lincoln's Inn had a monarch so named chosen from among them, whose office it was to lead and promote their gambols. In the present day, as observed in an English family, probably the festival of Christmas is the most rational and gratifying specimen of a social ceremony to be found in the world. It is, to speak figuratively, a scene, whose *dramatis personæ* are the Christian virtues. Charity, "the greatest of them all," takes the leading part; Love gives it action; Benevolence, properties; Social Union, harmony; Gratitude, its development; Hope, its moral. Then welcome—a thousand welcomes—those boon Christmas Time! Season of such especial blessings for those who use these profitably. Reader! wouldst learn the metes of all its holiday contrivances? Let us for once play the philanthropist, and whisper the secret in thy ear—*The Christmas Box!* With this make your game on every 25th of December. Throw liberally and fearlessly. Stand not for a small stake—for self-approval will ensure you sixes—

And one day make you rich for all the year!

TATTERSALL'S.

The Christmas week is generally a barren one at the "Corner," and such we expected it would be on this occasion. On Monday, however, there was a very good attendance, and business to a large amount was transacted, Van Tromp, Epirote, Planet, and Glentilt, being the lions of the day, but without any material effect on their positions. The betting extended over a large field of horses, and furnished the following averages:—

50 to 1 offered on the field
50 to 1 agst Crim. Con.
1250 to 25 agst Fitz-Alen (t)
2000 to 30 — Mickey Free, t
1000 to 15 — Newcourt (t)

TWO THOUSAND GUINEA STAKES.

5 to 1 on the field.

DEEPY.

15 to 2 agst Van Tromp
14 to 1 — Epirote
12 to 1 — Planet
25 to 1 — Glentilt (t)
22 to 1 — Sis., Cobweb c
33 to 1 — Lunedale
33 to 1 — Old Port
33 to 1 — Wanota
35 to 1 agst Allertonian
40 to 1 — Red Hart
40 to 1 — Mathematician
40 to 1 — Miss Martin c
50 to 1 — Conghamy (t)
50 to 1 — Liberator (t)
50 to 1 — Projectile (t)
50 to 1 — Montpensier (t)
50 to 1 — Bingham (t)
50 to 1 — Christopher (t)
66 to 1 — Galvane Ring (t)
66 to 1 — War Eagle (t)
100 to 1 — Bedlam (t)
Planter (t)

OAKS.

16 to 1 agst Farmer's Daughter (t)
16 to 1 — Ellerdale (t)

THURSDAY.—Quite a Christmas attendance; the few, however, who "showed," were bent on mischief, and we are, in consequence, enabled to present a short quotation:—

50 to 1 offered on the field	4000 to 55 agst Duke of Richmond
65 to 1 agst Crim. Con.	300 to 5 — Diamond
7 to 1 agst Van Tromp	50 to 1 agst The Liberator (t)
13 to 1 — Epirote	50 to 1 — Christopher (t)
40 to 1 — Red Hart (t)	50 to 1 — Bingham (t)
40 to 1 — Planet	100 to 1 — Bedlam (t)
25 to 1 — Glentilt (t)	100 to 1 agst Whirligig (t)

Captain Meynell's Severus, named by Lord George Bentinck, died two or three days ago at Newmarket.

OAKS.
16 to 1 agst The Farmer's Daughter (t)

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The present week's arrivals of English wheat for our market have been but moderate, yet the show of samples of that article has been fully adequate to meet the wants of the buyers. On the whole the trade has ruled inactive, yet a further slight advance must be noticed in the quotations. In free foreign wheat exceedingly little has been doing, at late rates. All grain in bond has been held at higher figures. Malting barley has produced 2s, other kinds 2s per quarter more money, with a ready sale. The malt trade has ruled steady, at full prices. In oats a good business has been transacted, at an improvement in the currencies of 1s per quarter. Both beans and peas are 2s higher; while the top price of flour has advanced to 6s per 280lb. Barrels qualities 2s dearer.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 6s to 7s; ditto white, 6s to 7s; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 6s to 6s; ditto white, 6s to 7s; rye, 4s to 5s; grinding barley, 2s to 4s; distilling, 4s to 4s; malting ditto, 4s to 5s; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 6s to 6s; brown ditto 5s to 6s; Kingston and Ware, 7s to 7s; Cheverell, 7s to 7s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 2s to 3s; potato ditto, 3s to 3s; Youghal and Cork, black, 2s to 2s; ditto white, 2s to 3s; tickled beans, 4s to 4s; ditto white, 4s to 4s; rye peas, 2s to 2s; rye beans, 4s to 4s; ditto white, 4s to 4s; oats, 2s to 2s; feed, 2s to 2s; and peas, 2s to 2s—a per quart. Flour, American, 3s to 3s; Baltic, 3s to 3s; per barrel.

The Seed Market.—Linseed cakes are in moderate request, at full prices. Rape cakes are a slow sale. Linseed moves off readily, at 1s per quarter more money. In all other kinds of seeds very little is doing.

Linen, English, sowing, 5s to 6s; Baltic, crushing, 4s to 5s to 5s; Mediterranean and Odessa, 6s to 4s. Hempseed, 3s to 3s per quarter. Coriander, 12s to 15s per cwt. Brown Mustard-seed, 10s to 12s; white ditto, 8s to 9s. Tares, 4s to 6s per bushel. English Rapeseed, new, £27 to £28 per last of ten quarters. Linseed cakes, English, 1s 5s to 1s 10s; ditto, foreign, 1s 10s to 1s 10s per 100 lb. Rapeseed cakes, 12s to 15s per 100 lb. Canary, 6s to 6s per quarter. English Clover-seed, red, — to —; extra, — to —; white, — to —; extra, up to —. Foreign, red, — to —; extra, — to —; white, — to —; extra, — to —; extra, — to —. Bread.—The price of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 9d to 9d; of household diet, 7d to 8d; of 8d to 9d per lb.

Imperial Cakes.—Wheat, 5s 10d; barley, 4s 11d; oats, 2s 3d; rye, 4s 1d; beans, 2s 2d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 5s 9d; barley, 4s 2d; oats, 2s 3d; rye, 4s 1d; beans, 2s 2d.

Duties on Foreign Corn.—Wheat, 4s 0d; barley, 2s 0d; oats, 1s 6d; rye, 2s 0d; beans, 2s 0d; peas, 2s 0d.

Tea.—Tea is very little business doing in any kind of tea. Fine parcels of green are, however, held at extreme rates.

Sugar.—The market is very scantily supplied with West India sugar, owing to which a further advance of 6s per cwt. has been obtained for most qualities. In other kinds of raw sugar, a good business has been done, at full prices. Refined goods are 6d to 1s per cwt. dearer. Brown lumps, 6s to 6s, and standard do., 6s to 6s per cwt.

Coffee.—Native Ceylon is in good request, at full prices. In other kinds of coffee exceedingly little is doing.

Rice.—This article is firm, at extreme currencies.

Tallow.—A large business is doing in this market, at higher rates. P.Y.C. on the spot, 5ls 6d to 5ls 9d per cwt. Town tallow firm, at 5ls 6d to 6s 1d not cash.

Potatoes.—Although the supplies are small the demand rules heavy, at from 12s to 18s per ton.

Provisions.—Owing to the change in the weather, the demand for Irish butter is less active, and prices are with difficulty supported. Carlow, landed, 9s to 9s; Connell, 9s to 9s; Cork, 9s to 9s; Limerick, 8s to 9s; Waterford, 8s to 8s; and Sligo 8s to 8s per cwt. Forward delivery, we have no transactions to report. English butter is in good request, at full previous currencies. The best Dorset is selling at 10s to 10s; inferior and middling, 9s to 9s; and Devon, 9s to 9s per cwt.; fresh, 1s 4s to 1s per dozen lbs. Inferior butter moves off briskly, at 10s to 11s for selected parcels. The sale for bacon is active, at a further rise in value of 1s per cwt. Prime Waterford sizeable, 6s to 6s; and heavy, 6s to 6s per cwt. Belfast middles are selling at 9s to 9s per cwt. Lard is a brisk inquiry, at 1s per cwt. more money. Prime Waterford bladdered, 6s to 7s per cwt. All other kinds of provisions are quite as dear.

Hops (Friday).—During the present week a moderate business has been transacted in the first and second vessels of hops, both in packets and bags, at full prices. In all other kinds so little is done that prices are almost nominal. Sussex pockets, 7s to 8s; Weald of Kent ditto, 9s to 9s; Mid and East Kent ditto, 6s to 6s.

Smithfield (Friday).—This being Christmas Day, the supply of beasts on sale here this morning was very limited, and of middling quality. On the whole the beef trade was firm, and Monday's quotations were readily supported in every instance. The numbers of sheep were unusually small, while the mutton trade was steady, at full prices. There were only three calves on offer, and which were taken at late rates. In pigs scarcely a transaction took place. From abroad we received 70 oxen and cows, the whole of which found buyers. Milk cows were heavy, at from £16 to £18 each, including their small calf.

Per 100, to sink the offals:—Coarse and inferior beasts, 3d to 3s 6d; second quality ditto, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; prime large oxen, 4s 0d to 4s 2d; prime Scots, &c., 4s 2d to 4s 4d; coarse and inferior sheep, 3s 10d to 4s 0d; second quality ditto, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; prime coarse-woollen ditto, 4s 6d to 4s 8d; prime South Down ditto, 4s 10d to 4s 2d; large coarse calves, 3s 6d to 4s 2d; prime small ditto, 4s 4d to 4s 8d; large hoggs, 3s 8d to 4s 4d; neat small porkers, 4s 6d to 4s 8d. Suckling calves, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; and quarter old store pigs, 1s 6d to 1s 10d each. Beasts, 32s; calves, 30s; sheep, 32s; calves, 3s; pigs, 80.

Regatta and Leamington (Friday).—A steady business was doing here to-day, at full prices.

Porcine.—In the Foreign House, on Monday, Portuguese Stock again improved, the Four per Cents. leaving off at 40, in consequence of the advertisement of a dividend. A reaction, however, occurred on Tuesday, and the price has since receded to 38s for Account, at which it closes. Mexican opened at 23s to 24s, and, after a slight advance, closes at 24 for Money, 24s for Time. Spanish Actives and Three per Cents. advanced a turn on Tuesday, and the improvement has been well supported since. The closing quotations are, for the Five per Cents., 26s to 27; Three per Cents., 38s. The Market, with these exceptions, has been inanimate; prices at closing being, for Brazilian, 87s; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents., 60s; Four per Cent. Certificates 93s.

Although the business of the Share Market has not been extensive, yet considerable activity in prices has prevailed. Manchester and Leeds Stock has been in better demand. Birmingham and Oxford Shares have improved considerably, and Caledonians, North Staffordshire, and the East Indian Railways, have all been influenced by operations. There was rather less briskness to wards the close of the week, but the subjoined list of actual operations will best display the state of the market:—Aberdeen, 28s; Ambergate, Nottingham, Boston, and Eastern Junction, 28s; Birmingham and Dudley, 6 p.m.; Birmingham and Gloucester, 12s; Birmingham and Oxford Junction, 11s; Bristol and Exeter, 7s; Caledonian, 29s; Cornwall, 11s; Direct Northern, 2s; Eastern Counties, 23s; Ditto, York Extension, 3s; East Lancashire, 17s; Ditto New

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

THE DOUBLE-ACTION PRINTING MACHINE. The Patent Journal, of Saturday, December 26, contains Mr. LITTLE'S REPLY to Mr. APPLEGATE'S CORRESPONDENCE, published in the No. of the PATENT JOURNAL of Saturday, Dec. 13th.

Published at the Patent Journal Office, 89, Chancery-lane, Price Threepence, or sent free by post on receipt of Five Postage Stamps.

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ALLEGRIAMENTE.

f e ben marcato

The old north breeze, through the ske - le ton trees, Is chant - ing the year out drea - ri - ly; But loud let it blow, for at home we know That the

p stac.

dry logs crac - kle chee - ri - ly. And the fro - zen ground is in fet - ters - bound: But

f

pile up the wood, we can burn it; For Christ - mas is come, and in e - ve - ry home To sum - mer our hearts can turn it. Wass heil! wass heil! Here's

hap - pi - ness to all: a - broad and at home: Wass heil! wass heil! Here's hap - pi - ness to all: for Christ mas is come!

Sym.

II.

And far and near, o'er the landscape drear,
From casements brightly streaming,
With cheerful glow on the fallen snow
The ruddy light is gleaming!
The wind may shout as it likes without,
It may bluster, but never can harm us,
For a merrier din shall resound within,
And our Christmas feelings warm us.

Chorus.—Wass heil! wass heil!

III.

The flowers are torpid in their beds,
Till Spring's first sunbeam sleeping;
Not e'en the snowdrops' pointed heads
Above the earth are peeping.
But groves remain on each frosted pane,
Of feathery trees and bowers;
And fairer far, we'll maintain they are,
Than Summer's gaudiest flowers.

Chorus.—Wass heil! wass heil!

IV.

Let us drink to those eyes we most dearly prize,
We can shew how we love them after;
The fire-blaze cleaves to the bright holly-leaves,
And the mistletoe hangs from the rafter.
We care not for fruit whilst we here can see
Their scarlet and pearly berries;
For the girls' soft cheeks shall our peaches be,
And their pouting lips our cherries.

Chorus.—Wass heil! wass heil!